

VOTES FOR WOMEN

EDITED BY FREDERICK AND EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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THE HAUNTED HOUSE.



We reproduce above, as particularly appropriate to the present crisis, the famous Cartoon drawn by Mr. David Wilson which originally appeared in the "Daily Chronicle," and which we were kindly permitted to reproduce on the cover of the early numbers of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

CONTENTS.

PAGE	PAGE
Our Cartoon	286
The Outlook	286
Announcements	286
The Next Protest	286
From One Overseas	286
By Bella Sidney Woolf	287
Civilisation without Citizenship is Impossible. By Mr. Mansell-Moulin, F.R.C.S., Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons	287
The Cabinet and the Women	288
Labour and Woman Suffrage	288
Unionists and Women's Suffrage	288
By Election	288
Mrs. Pankhurst at Liverpool	288
Mrs. Lawrence at Gloucester	288
A Child and a Dog	288
Great Meetings in Belfast and Glasgow	289
Women Heroes	289
The Begum of Bhopal	289
Who Keeps the Home?	289
Man-administered Laws	289
Books and Plays	290
Princess Barlatinsky	291
Be Ready. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence	292
The Political Situation. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B.	293
Treasurer's Note	293
Contributions to the £250,000 Fund	293
The Quality of Mercy. By Kathleen Mansel Pleydell	294
The Most Vigorous Thing in the World	294
The Perils of Ignorance	294
1,000 New Readers Wanted	294
The Daily Telegraph	294
Our Post Box	295
Press Extracts	295
General News	295
Campaign throughout the Country	296

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom; to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it; to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK.

Parliament meets on Wednesday next; and the King's Speech will be read foreshadowing the Ministerial intentions with regard to legislation. In former years the question of Woman Suffrage was conspicuous by its absence—in fact none but Suffragists themselves concerned themselves about it. Now all is changed. The suffrage policy of the Government is regarded

by politicians of all shades of opinion as of intense interest. Not merely do they recognise that Woman Suffrage is a living political issue with a genuine prospect of success in the present Session, but they see also that the continued existence of the Government is involved in the correct handling of this question.

A Resolute Army.

The members of the militant organisation of Suffragists, whose views we represent, await with the calmness of absolute determination the issue. They know that a struggle lies before them compared with which all the struggles of the past have been as skirmishes before a battle. They know that it will call for all their energy, all their devotion, all their self-sacrifice. They know that every soldier is wanted to take her place in the ranks, that one or two more or less may make all the difference between victory or temporary defeat. They know that new recruits are of the utmost value. They know that the sinews of war need strengthening. They know that the enemy is powerful, implacable, and unscrupulous. But they know also two things: first that their cause is just and second that God helps those who help themselves. Acting on this knowledge in the years gone by they have by sheer fighting carried the Suffrage flag further and further into the enemy's country, and by sheer fighting in the future they will carry it and plant it triumphant on the citadel itself.

Cabinet Silence.

Up to the time of going to press the Cabinet has not broken silence on the Suffrage question. Though there have been two Cabinet Councils during the week—an

Friday and Tuesday—and at least two "Conferences of Ministers"—on Friday and Monday—no statement of the results has been declared. It is true that Mr. Lloyd George, at the City Liberal Club on Saturday, spoke of the friendly feeling existing between himself and the Prime Minister; and Mr. Hobhouse, speaking at Bristol, referred to the Suffrage Bill of the Government as one for *Registration Reform*, which would secure the abolition of *plural voting*; but beyond these vague statements nothing definite has been said.

Points to be Decided.

The points on which the country is entitled to enlightenment are three. Firstly, does the Cabinet adhere to its intention to introduce a Reform Bill open to an amendment to include women? If not, what substitute does it offer to women for the definite pledges given them by the Prime Minister and Mr. Lloyd George? Secondly, does Mr. Lloyd George adhere to his pledge to campaign the country in favour of Woman Suffrage? Thirdly, what attitude do the Cabinet intend to take up with regard to the question of the Referendum? Let us consider each of these points a little more in detail.

Mr. Asquith's Pledge.

In November last, Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George "torpedoed" the Conciliation Bill and gave a pledge that an opportunity would be provided on a Government Reform Bill to introduce a clause enfranchising women, and that if this clause were carried by an open vote in the House of Commons, it would become an integral part of the Government Bill and would receive the support of the Government as a

whole. On the strength of this pledge they secured the friendship of a considerable section of the Suffrage forces. On the other hand, the other section, including the W.S.P.U., declared that this pledge was utterly inadequate and would not secure success to the Suffrage cause in 1912.

Suggested Abandonment.

It has been suggested in the Press that the Government may be contemplating abandoning their pledge. To do so consistently with honour they must put something better in its place. They cannot ask women to go back to facilities for the Conciliation Bill, because by their own admission they have shattered that non-party compromise. The one course that lies open to them is to introduce a Government measure giving to women the same franchise rights as to men. We who refused Mr. Asquith's proposals have all along declared that this alone will satisfy us; and it is difficult to see how those other suffragists who accepted them can be content with anything less than this as a substitute for those proposals if they are now withdrawn.

Mr. Lloyd George's Campaign.

The second point concerns the personal honour of Mr. Lloyd George. When he was engaged in persuading women to accept his championship he promised a great campaign throughout the country in support of Woman Suffrage. So far he has spoken at Bath and at the Horticultural Hall, and he is billed for the Albert Hall. It has been suggested that for fear of splitting the Cabinet he has decided not to continue the great campaign any further. The women of the country are entitled to a statement from him as to the truth of this suggestion.

The Referendum.

The third point on which information is required is with regard to the Referendum. Liberals have been taught by their leaders to see in the Referendum a retrograde step fraught with grave peril to the principles of democratic government in this country. Mr. Lloyd George has condemned it specifically in the case of Woman Suffrage. Yet the suggestion has been put forward by certain Liberal papers, and by Sir Edward Grey, that the Cabinet might connive at the application of the Referendum to Woman Suffrage. An authoritative answer has to be given in the name of the Cabinet as to the course which it intends to pursue on this question.

Mr. Asquith Contrasted with Mr. Gladstone.

Important articles have appeared in the Press during the week dealing with the Woman Suffrage issue. In its leading article of Thursday in last week the *Daily Telegraph* dealt with "the extraordinary tangle" in which the Government are placed, and proceeded to refer to Mr. Asquith, saying:—

Not the least astounding feature of it all is that he has manoeuvred himself, of his own volition, into the unenviable place he occupies. It was the Prime Minister himself who surprised not merely his opponents, but also his friends and supporters, by making the first announcement of the Electoral Reform Bill, which is to sweep away the existing restrictions on the male franchise. That was entirely his own doing; yet it has added enormously to his personal difficulties and to the embarrassments of those in the Cabinet who share his views on this subject. What his motives were can only be conjectured. The Suffragists at once suspected that it was "a trick" against the cause. . . . It is impossible to conceive Mr. Gladstone in such a situation as that now occupied by Mr. Asquith. Either he would not have permitted the subject to be played with, or he would have allowed his convictions to suffer gradual change until the psychological moment arrived for the proclamation of his full conversion.

The article, which we reproduce elsewhere (p. 294), concluded with the assertion that the Electoral Reform Bill had produced a situation in which everything was dark and confused.

A Cloud no Bigger than a Woman's Hand.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* of Saturday last in describing the position said:—

The cloud, no bigger than a woman's hand, that heralded a depression which has since overspread the whole Ministerial host, has developed a chilly and paralysing atmosphere that has found its way into the innermost recesses of No. 10, Downing Street.

While the *Observer* of Sunday remarked:—

We repeat that from the Suffrage imbroglio none but a lamaging exit is possible, and that this problem is bound to exert a stronger influence upon political destinies than is yet even remotely realised by most politicians.

And the *Globe* says that the question of Woman Suffrage is equally dangerous to the Cabinet with the question of Home Rule.

The Medusa Head of Woman Suffrage.

An amusing simile is put forward in the *Daily Telegraph*:—

They [the Cabinet] are confronted by a troop of spectres, which will keep close to their pillows and trouble their waking dreams all through the year. Home Rule—the Medusa Head of Woman Suffrage.

While the *Morning Post* in more serious vein denounces the suggestion that Woman Suffrage should be submitted to a Referendum, saying:—

It is inconceivable that the Referendum will please ardent Suffragists any more than it pleased ardent Tariff Reformers. For the result of a Referendum is nearly always in the negative, and is a cold sort of porridge with which to feed soldiers in a fighting cause. It now appears to be a way out, as it once

appeared to be a way out for the Unionist Party. But on closer examination the solution will be found fallacious. For it is neither a compromise nor a concession: it is an evasion.

Other Press extracts will be found on page 295.

The Labour Party and Woman Suffrage.

A vigorous campaign is being undertaken by members of the Labour Party in different parts of the country in favour of the inclusion of women in the Government's Reform Bill. Speaking at Blackburn, on Friday last, Mr. Philip Snowden said:—

They must have the solidarity of labour on this question. They must have men standing by the women, and saying, "No; we are not prepared to take things for ourselves until the women have had their rights conceded also." (Cheers.) They wanted the Government to understand that there was a demand which was not going to be satisfied with anything except a real democratic measure of electoral reform, one which would recognise citizenship as the basis of the Parliamentary vote, one which would in practice concede the principle that every person of full age and intelligence, every person called upon to obey the laws of the country and pay taxes, regardless of sex, should be given a voice in the legislation of the country and the character of the taxation they were called upon to pay.

Preparations are now complete for the Great Albert Hall meeting organised by the Labour forces for Tuesday next, and all those who desire to be present should lose no time in securing their seats, as no tickets can be obtained on the night of the demonstration.

Russian Women and British Suffragists.

In supporting the British Woman Suffrage movement by her speech at Glasgow, Princess Bariatsinski was voicing the view of women in Russia. We learn that the British deputation now visiting Russia has received an address from the Russian women in St. Petersburg which after welcoming the visitors says:—

It will hardly surprise you to learn that the one matter in which we are most deeply and ardently interested is the great movement in your country in favour of female suffrage. It gives us the greatest satisfaction to see that English public opinion appears to be decidedly tending more and more towards recognition of political rights for women on an equality with men. We are aware that this question will have to be brought before your legislative chambers for decision in the very near future, and we therefore venture to express our strong hope that the action of the British Parliament in this important matter will be strictly consistent with that historical extension of political and individual liberty which has hitherto marked the progress of the English people—that in this way the demands of modern life will be met by granting free citizenship to women.

The British deputation are requested to convey the sincerest sympathy and warm-hearted wishes for success from the Russian women to their English sisters.

Under the Government of Men.

A little while ago we drew our readers' attention to the scandal by which the Government of India, while authorising and financing medical attention for native men, not only fails to finance but refuses to give official recognition to the efforts made to give medical attention to Indian women. This week we prefer a still graver accusation. As will be seen from an account in another column the law in India does not recognise any crime in procuring young girls even under 16 years of age for the purpose of concubinage. The Government of Bombay has been appealed to and refuses to take any steps to alter the law on the ground that such an alteration would give offence. The Indian Government is responsible to the British Parliament, and so long as British women are voteless these atrocities will be perpetrated on their helpless Indian sisters.

Items of Interest.

Mr. Alan Macdougall was due to be released after we had gone to press on Thursday morning, after undergoing two months' imprisonment for his assault on Mr. Lloyd George.

The French correspondent of the *Times* states that though the woman's movement does not appear to be very vigorous in France, or even in Paris, he has reason to believe that some prominent French statesmen are unable to contemplate without some alarm the influence which would be exercised in France by the success of the British movement.

The Manitoba Grain Growers' Convention has passed a resolution in favour of Woman Suffrage.

The following is a translation of the extract relating to Woman Suffrage from the King of Sweden's speech on opening Parliament:—"Women in matters of vital importance lack the chief rights of citizens. In regard to justice as well as to the real interests of the State this wrong condition of affairs demands alteration. It is therefore my purpose during the present Parliament to submit to you the alterations of the regulations of Parliamentary procedure that women may receive the right to elect and the right of being elected to Parliament on the same conditions as men." We understand that the Conservatives are likely to oppose the extension of the franchise to women; but that the Social Democrats, though in favour of extending the suffrage for men, have undertaken to support a liberal bill for Woman Suffrage.

IN MEMORIAM.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Barclay, of Ingagone, Prestwick. Mrs. Barclay was a most enthusiastic member of the Women's Social and Political Union. Her simple goodness and unselfish devotion to every good cause endeared her to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

We also deeply regret to record the death of Mrs. Lecky, of Blairgowrie, at the age of eighty-six, on Saturday, February 3. All her life Mrs. Lecky supported the demand for the enfranchisement of women, and although frail and almost entirely confined to the house during the last years of her life, she became a member of the W.S.P.U. and followed its fortunes with keen interest to the end. We offer our sincere sympathy to her granddaughter, Miss Marjorie Kemp, one of our most enthusiastic workers.

THE NEXT PROTEST.

We have received a letter from Mrs. Saul Solomon, in the course of which she says:—"This is the moment when it is our supreme duty—one and all—to offer ourselves body and soul for sacrifice and service. Here am I—send me to the Front," is the cry that bursts from heart and life to answer our Leaders' Call." Who that remembers the sacrifices of Mrs. Saul Solomon and other veterans in the fight can lag behind? Send in your names!

A volunteer, who has only just been released from prison, writes:—"My imprisonment was the greatest honour ever bestowed on me. . . . I am now ready for any danger duty, even if it means my life."

I do hope I shall be free on the day of your next militant protest, and that you will feel disposed again to let me list as a soldier," as a volunteer, like last time, when I was so pleased to add a unit towards this thousand. . . . My people have been soldiers for generations, and I ought to know how to take orders and to stand fire. (From a Volunteer.)

Please add my name to the list for the next Protest. My week in Holloway only made my convictions the stronger, and my desire the keener, to work for our cause until it is won. I am ready for any action which may prove necessary. (From a Volunteer.)

Will you put my name down for this Protest, and for every Protest until we get the vote? (From a Volunteer.)

Names should be sent to Miss Christabel Pankhurst, 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

FROM ONE OVERSEAS.

(On hearing of the Deputation of Nov. 21.)

The voices of the women are with me night and day, They call me and they lure me, six thousand miles away, 'Midst groves of rustling palm trees, 'neath skies of purest blue, They rob the peace of summer—they bid me up and do, Adown the long-lost ages I hear the ceaseless tread, Of Woman pressing onward, with brave uplifted head, Of Woman staunchly bearing her twofold work and pain, I hear her sigh for freedom breathed to the winds in vain, But now the call has sounded in accents trumpet-clear, The world has heard and wondered—it cannot choose but hear.

Wives, daughters, mothers, sisters—hark! the insistent cry! "Freedom!—For Woman's freedom we stand to live or die." Across the world your summons comes on the western breeze, To isles of endless summer, in spice-bound Southern Seas, Too far to battle for you in that most glorious fray— Women! my heart is with you—six thousand miles away, BELLA SIDNEY WOOLF (Mrs. R. H. Lock), Peradeniya, Ceylon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Release of Prisoners.

Come to Holloway to-morrow (Saturday) morning at 8 o'clock, and join in welcoming the following:—Miss Evelyn Taylor, Mrs. Archdale, Miss A. Connor Smith, Miss V. Hudson Harvey, Mrs. Frances Rowe, Mrs. Mary Violet Jones, Miss Lelegard Atheling, Miss Cissie Wilcox, Miss Vera Wentworth, Miss Olive Wharry, Miss Margaret Wallis, and Miss Potbury on their release from two months' imprisonment. The women sentenced on December 13 will be released next Monday, February 12, at 8 a.m. They are:—Miss Grace Stuart, Miss Ethel Slade, Mrs. Evelyn Huddleston, Miss Margaret Robinson, Miss Sarah Bennett, and Miss Georgina Helen Grant.

Welcome to Prisoners.

On Friday, February 16, the two-month prisoners will be welcomed at a special dinner at the Connaught Rooms at 7.15 p.m. Mrs. Pankhurst will preside, and as this is the first social gathering since her return from America, a most enjoyable evening is anticipated. Tickets, 6s., to be had from the Ticket Secretary, W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C. (If Vegetarian, please state when making application.) In order to meet the desire of members unable to be present at the dinner itself, an arrangement has been made to seat a few additional friends during the after-dinner speeches. Tickets, price 1s. each, may be had from Miss Cooke. No application for tickets can be entertained on the night.

To the Albert Hall!

Do not delay securing tickets for yourself and your friends for the Albert Hall meeting on March 23. Miss Cooke, Ticket secretary, 4, Clements Inn, W.C., will be glad to have all applications in as soon as possible. The prices are as follows:—Amphitheatre, 2s. 6d.; arena, 1s.; lower orchestra, 2s.; balcony, 1s. and 6d.; upper orchestra, 6d.; all numbered and reserved; boxes, £1 10s., £1 1s., and 12s. 6d.

The Woman's Press, 156, Charing Cross Road, W.C.

Our readers will be glad to know that Lady Stout's articles on New Zealand have been prepared in pamphlet form, and will be ready on Monday next, price 1d. A special sale of goods at reduced prices will be held this week, see page 300.

Don't Forget!

Visitors to the afternoon meeting at the London Pavilion, Piccadilly Circus, W., on Monday next, February 12, at 3.15 p.m., will have the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Brailford, who has done so much in the cause of Women's Emancipation. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Miss Christabel Pankhurst, L.L.B., will also speak. The evening meeting at the Steinway Hall on Thursday, February 15, at 9 p.m., is of peculiar interest to all women clerks, as Miss Elizabeth Stirling, of the Association of Post Office Women Clerks, will address the meeting. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Miss Leonore Tyson will also speak. These meetings are held weekly, and admission is free. Similar meetings are held throughout the country in all centres where the W.S.P.U. is represented. See pages 296 et seq.

CIVILISATION WITHOUT CITIZENSHIP IS IMPOSSIBLE.

By MR. MANSEL-MOULLIN, F.R.C.S., Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

A speech delivered at the London Pavilion on Monday last.

Two years ago you did me the honour of inviting me to speak to you on the Queen's Hall platform. At that time I remember I dealt with the reasons why women should have the suffrage, and the arguments that were brought forward against it, or rather the want of arguments. How utterly dry and stale all that is now!

Four years ago your Cause was practically ignored. Your meetings were not reported. I remember once at the Albert Hall, where I think the finest speech I have ever heard was delivered by Mr. Zangwill, it was never mentioned at all. Cabinet Ministers would not receive you, and even private members, who could not very well refuse to see their constituents, suffered with the most extraordinary frequency from bad colds. Now all that is changed. Why, I won't pretend to say. It can have been nothing to do with this Union, because you are always told that the doings of this Union always put back the clock. The curious thing is that while the clock is being put back so steadily the Movement goes on all the faster! Everybody admits that that magnificent procession, which reached from the Strand to the Albert Hall, the finest procession that London has ever seen (or ever will see, until you organise another), had something to do with it, but not your Union. Well, things have changed, and the first step was the institution of the "Woman's Platform" in the *Standard*, the platform which at first was filled by "antis," and of which they now complain so bitterly, because their one writer and two speakers make such a very poor show upon it. Then the other papers followed, suit naturally, quickly enough, and I saw in a Liberal paper only the other day that though there were really vital questions before the country—questions of Home Rule, Welsh Disestablishment, and two or three others that it named—there was nothing heard of but Votes for Women.

Hysterical Outbursts.

Then Cabinet Ministers even have received you, and what is the surest sign of success of all, the "antis" are getting perfectly beside themselves with rage. Those hysterical outbursts of uncontrollable passion, those exhibitions of frenzy and of brutal violence at Gloucester and the Queen's Hall the other day, where the Home Secretary, who was present, made no attempt whatever to control his own supporters, and gave them the approval of his silence, were merely the sign that they have lost all control over themselves, while your own Cause, the success of which has driven them so mad, is advancing by leaps and bounds, because it is the cause of freedom and liberty and civilisation. Thinking over this the other day, I began to wonder whether the distinguished classical scholars in the Cabinet had ever thought out the meaning of the word "civilisation." It is derived from the Latin word, *civis*, a citizen; and "civilisation" means the realisation of the rights and duties and privileges of citizenship. And yet England, where one-half of the adult population, perfectly as well qualified as the other half, is deprived of its rights of citizenship simply because of its sex, speaks of itself and claims to be spoken of as a civilised country. *Civilisation without citizenship is impossible.* It is a contradiction in terms. No country can be called civilised in which the bulk of its adult population remains without the rights of citizenship.

Our laws are looked upon generally as a product of civilisation. They are nothing whatever of the kind. They are relics of barbarism with a veneer of civilisation over them, and wherever women are concerned that veneer is remarkably thin. They are relics of a time when wives were captured by force or stolen, and there was no limit to the number, and when women were bought and sold like domestic cattle, and treated in very much the same way. I will give you an instance. It is probably known just as well to you as it is to me, and you may have heard it before, but I want to rub it in. A mother, if she is married, is not in the eyes of the law the guardian of her own child. She is in exactly the same relation to her own children that domestic animals are to their offspring. If a mare has a foal, the mare looks after that foal, tends it in every way, but the foal does not belong to the mare, the foal belongs to the farmer, who can dispose of it as he likes. If a mother, who is married, has a child, she may tend that child in every way, but the child belongs to the father. It is the father alone who can dictate what education that child shall have, what religion it shall be brought up in, and who can appoint, in case of his death, what guardian he likes. Let me remind you of the Agar Ellis case, where the husband gave a pledge before marriage that his children should be brought up in the Roman Catholic faith, and as soon as he was married repudiated it, and the law upheld him. This law does not stand alone; there are plenty of others equally bad. The laws, all of them that relate to women in any way, whether they concern marriage or divorce, or illegitimate children, or the employment of women (as we have recently seen with regard to the Pit Brow), or even the latest, the National Insurance Act, all have the same taint running through them; they are all developments of

barbaric law veneered over. The laws of our own country, the administration of justice and the procedure in the courts, have all of them one assumption lying underneath—that woman is an inferior animal, and has been sent into this world for the purpose of looking after man and administering to his wants and pleasure whenever and wherever he likes. It is not so very many years ago since it was seriously debated, chiefly by ecclesiastics I admit, whether women had souls. It is within my memory that it was questioned whether women had minds, and even now our ancient universities hardly admit it. They will examine women; they will teach them; they will take fees from them, but they will not grant them degrees, not knowing in their medieval ignorance the honour that women could do them.

All this ought to be changed. The whole law ought to be changed. It may involve re-writing the Statute Book and altering the customs of every one of the courts. I do not think the lawyers would object. Men and women in the future must stand together side by side on the same plane—on the same plane of rights and privileges and duties, just as they are on the same plane of intellect and mental development. Their brains have grown up side by side. They are like two trees that have grown up together, not identical, but reaching the same height, attaining the same degree of perfection. There is no man living who can tell the difference between a male and a female brain. The difference in size is nothing, because you have to take into consideration the difference in size of the individual. The proportion is the same, and even if it were not, it often happens that an idiot's brain is the largest. They have reached the same degree of perfection. Neither is superior to the other in virtue of sex; neither should be master of the other in virtue of sex. Neither sex can stand by itself; one is but the complement of the other.

The country is beginning to feel this. For the last twenty-six years the country has returned to Parliament a majority in favour of the enfranchisement of women. The political complexion may have varied—has varied from time to time—but the majority in favour of the enfranchisement of women has steadily increased. The majority in the Cabinet is in favour of it; individual members have on many occasions declared that it is only a measure of justice delayed. What then is the obstacle? The sole obstacle is the policy of expediency, the policy of the Party Whip. In the Cabinet they call it loyalty to their chief. Outside the Cabinet men owe a certain measure of loyalty to their conscience and to their convictions. In the Cabinet—well, crack goes the Party Whip, conscience and convictions go to the wall, and, like a well-trained pack, all Ministers come to heel at once. It is not a noble policy, and it is likely to lead to trouble; it has led to trouble, and now the question is, What are they going to do? They cannot ignore the Movement any longer. They tried to do that. They declared that it did not exist until its size has threatened their own existence. They cannot vote against it, because the majority of the Cabinet (we have it on the Prime Minister's authority) are in favour of it. They cannot vote for it because of the Party Whip. What are they to do?

"Pledges like Chickens come Home to Roost."

There is only one thing left, and that is the course they have taken—the policy of delay, evasion, promises, excuses. Take 1910. The question was getting urgent; something must be done. So Mr. Birrell, with his childlike, bland smile, and his soft, smooth-spoken words, was told off to utter some cheerful platitudes. 1911! Something more must be done. Mr. Birrell was no good this time, so the Prime Minister gave some pledges. A month passed, and Mr. Lloyd George showed what his opinion of those pledges was, so the pledges were repeated with emphasis, emphasis connected with the spirit and the letter. 1912! Pledges like chickens come home to roost. Something more must be done, and then the Manhood Suffrage Bill was suddenly sprung upon the country. They say that it fell like a bomb in the House of Commons; that nobody had ever heard of it; certainly nobody had ever asked for it, and nobody expected it. Why it was introduced I think is shown best by the enthusiasm with which it was received by the "anti" party and by our torpedoing hero. They were delighted. It may not have been introduced with the intention of pleasing them, but it certainly had that effect. But then a very unpleasant thing happened. The Labour Party executed what I believe is termed a flanking movement. They declared that they would not have a Manhood Suffrage Bill, but an Adult Suffrage Bill, and now the Manhood Suffrage Bill is half forgotten. It is in a state of suspended animation. Still, something had to be done; so that member of the Government who is a loss to the music-hall stage (he is the best variety and quick change artiste that we have got, and he may, such is his versatility, yet adorn that stage) started the Referendum red herring. Personally, I do

not think for a moment that the Referendum is serious. A Cabinet can stand abuse, it thrives on it, it is accustomed to it; it can stand arguments, especially when it has the Closure at its back, but it cannot stand ridicule, and for Cabinet Ministers to spend the whole of one sitting concocting epigrams about the Referendum, and then spend the next sitting advocating it, would be one step too much even for the present Parliament. What, then, is to be done? It seems as if our old friends the Plural Voting Bill and the Conciliation Bill will be coming up again, unless there is some other startling surprise in store; but of one thing you may be certain, that Ministers will never run straight. They have not run straight hitherto, and they are not going to begin to run straight now. That is not a noble policy; it is not a policy that will go down to posterity as the effort of Statesmen. It is a policy of rank cowardice. They are afraid to face the facts. It is a policy of the most stupid folly, because they cannot see that this Movement has come to stay, and that it is growing faster and faster every day; and it is a policy of barbarism, because they are relying upon methods of barbarism to put down a purely spiritual movement. The question is, What are you to do? How are you to nail such shufflers and wrigglers, how are you to nail them to their pledges? Someone in the audience says, "Wait and see." It will be too late then. You want to nail them now, and the only thing is to keep straight on for your principle. The one that was laid down at the start. Keep perfectly straight for the principle, "as it is, or may be granted to men." I know what it means, and I am afraid you all know as well as I do. I know the hundreds who have been imprisoned. I know the brutal treatment that so many of you have received at the hands of the police and of prison officials, if not by the direct orders of the Home Secretary, at least with his active connivance. I know that some of you have been maimed for life. I know that some have died; died as directly of the violence they have received as if they had been put up against a wall and shot. I know all this, and so do you, but there is nothing for it but to go on. Your Cause is a sacred one. It is the Cause of justice and liberty and civilisation. It is the finest and the noblest Cause the world has ever known, and it is one that must and will succeed.

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THE CABINET AND THE WOMEN.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE AND THE CABINET SPLIT.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

On Saturday last, the Chancellor of the Exchequer visited the City Liberal Club, in accordance with the announcement that he would make a speech upon the subject of Finance. The business men, who form the bulk of the members, were keenly interested, and turned up in great force, although Saturday is for most of them a very inconvenient day.

The City Liberal Club is a Liberal oasis in the "one square mile" of solid Conservatism, but if Mr. Lloyd George reckoned upon a perfectly uninterrupted hearing, even in this "holy of holies," he was grievously mistaken. Several men Suffragists were present; and there can be little doubt that, but for this circumstance, the Chancellor would have been glad to avoid altogether touching upon the thorny subject of the disagreement in the Cabinet. However, directly the chairman's introductory remarks were over, and as Mr. Lloyd George stood up to begin his address (not a little while after he had begun, as some of the newspaper reports state), a gentleman arose from a seat between the reporters' table and the platform, not two yards away from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and quietly but emphatically said: "When the Chancellor speaks we should like to hear something in reference to the Cabinet and women's enfranchisement." (Cries of "Order," and "Sit down.") The questioner at once resumed his seat; and the Chancellor, after petulantly waving his arm with a curious movement as if he were chasing invisible chickens along an imaginary fowl-run, plunged into his speech.

Impelled by so timely a reminder that Woman Suffrage is "always with us," even in the City Liberal Club, Mr. Lloyd George felt, I suppose, that he must say something about the Cabinet differences, which it is common knowledge are due to the Suffrage question. In fact he was at some pains to dismiss as an airy phantom the very idea of a Cabinet schism. He had read, he said, that there was a great split in the Cabinet, and that a feud existed between the Premier and himself. It was very odd. They had parted at six o'clock the night before "in the most friendly and cheerful manner." The Cabinet knew nothing of a split.

Don't nail his ears to the pump!

At this point another Suffragist, speaking from the middle of the room, asked: "Will Mr. Lloyd George tell us the result of the Cabinet Council's discussion upon Women's Suffrage?" Cries of "Put him out!" followed; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer broke off to say: "Oh! no, leave him alone; it is rather cold outside, and if he remains here he will find it very hot." (Laughter.) It is probable that but for this "Don't nail his ears-to-the-pump" sort of advice, the questioner would have been allowed to remain. But an officious personage, ostensibly a "gentleman," took it upon himself, without the least reason or excuse, forcibly to eject the Suffragist, who, though the guest of a member of the Club, was thrown into the street, without his hat and overcoat, on a day when the thermometer registered ten degrees of frost, a disgraceful proceeding; and the detention of the coat and hat, besides being vindictive, would seem to have been absolutely illegal.

When a vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Lloyd George and Earl Beauchamp the latter was about to reply, when the gentleman who first protested called out, "Just a few words about the Suffrage question," but he was shouted down, and Mr. Lloyd George shook his head vigorously but would not say a word.

The meeting ended with the usual complimentary speeches, and presently Mr. Lloyd George, wreathed in smiles, sallied forth to his motor car. He wore an overcoat with a huge brown fur collar, and smoked a cigar nearly as large as a torpedo. Somehow, it made one think of the Conciliation Bill. Loud boos and cheers, intermingled with "Pass along, please!" were the Chancellor's send-off.

As I passed through the hall on my way out I heard two members talking, not of Mr. Bonar Law, not about finance, nor of armament, but of Woman Suffrage. One said to the other: "It would be interesting to know how these men get into these meetings." The only answer was a puzzled grunt. The heaven worketh, even in the City Liberal Club! I am told that one of the protesters, when coming out of the room, was hustled by one or two men, who tried to find out who brought him in. The protester called out to Mr. Lloyd George, who was just passing near him at the time,

to reprimand his followers, but Mr. Lloyd George only smiled and said, "You know what to expect under the circumstances," or words to that effect.

[We are informed that the club authorities have refused to give up the coat to the gentleman who asked the question, stating that they will not do so until he discloses the name of the member who supplied him with a ticket. This he has declined to do, and the club authorities are quite illegally detaining his coat.]

WITH THE PREMIER ON THE CHANNEL.

We never planned to cross the Channel that day—it came as a sudden inspiration. The sea was so smooth and the sky so blue—the very day for a visit to Madame La France. So we ran the whole way down the Leas to the boat, breathless, with one minute to spare, never dreaming we were sailing out to meet an adventure.

All the while we were exploring Boulogne, it was speeding nearer and nearer in the shape of Mr. Asquith returning home from his holiday twelve hours before his announced time. Cabinet Ministers keep their comings and goings quiet nowadays—in case of accidents, do-bless.

Certainly the Prime Minister resumed the cares of office sooner than he expected, for he had not been on board ten minutes before they were fastened on to his shoulders again.

We met on the main deck just as the vessel started, and I stood opposite him for one paralysed moment, but the next found myself saying "Votes for Women, Mr. Asquith!" in a determined tone, into his ear. He started, pretended he hadn't heard, and walked on followed by his family. But we had to meet again. It was the only pleasant part of the ship, and everyone who preferred fresh air to a stuffy saloon was walking up and down too. And each time I passed I gave him the reminder with added courage and aplomb as our French cousins say. Three times he stood it, although one could see his anger was rising. The fourth time my companion joined in. . . . Mr. Asquith despises women; he admits it, but when they are backed up by big burly men, who shout out as though they meant business, his disregard seems to vanish. That last shout sent the Prime Minister of Great Britain scurrying into a private cabin. And he must have minded, for his aide-de-camp, Mr. Edwin Montague, came up to remonstrate and implore. "It was an unheard-of, disgraceful thing to attack the Premier like that; surely his privacy should be respected!" I had insulted him; he felt it deeply, etc. So he was informed that, so long as Mr. Asquith was paid with public money, he was a public servant, and if he did not do his work properly the public had a perfect right to remonstrate with him, and since he seemed so shy of meeting them they must take what opportunities they could of telling him their opinion of his conduct. As for insulting him, there could be no question of that, for Mr. Asquith insulted women every day he held office.

Mr. Montague was good enough to tell me he was "all for" Woman's Suffrage and hoped sincerely that "our" Cause would triumph, but added that if we did not get it this year it would be on account of misguided militant actions such as mine.

So I begged him to tell Mr. Asquith that if he did not bow to Votes for Women this year more violent demonstrations than ever would be employed.

Just a lucky chance, but it was rather wonderful when one comes to think of it!

X. Y. Z.

AN OMEN!

Several women met the Prime Minister on his arrival at Charing Cross Station. One of them writes:—

"At last the time, dreaded by Cabinet Ministers, has arrived. Their holidays over, they have to devote their attention once more to matters political, foremost among the questions awaiting settlement being Woman Suffrage. It is an omen of the future, that Mr. Asquith and his colleagues will do well not to trifle with this subject, that almost the first words that met his ear as he stepped from the train at Charing Cross, on his arrival in England on Thursday night, were a reminder from women that they will neither accept a Manhood Suffrage Bill, nor tolerate a Referendum. Mr. Asquith was as usual accompanied by detectives, who unsuccessfully attempted to prevent the women from approaching. One of them used considerable violence, and attempted to push one of the women on to the line. In spite of this however the women succeeded in accompanying the Prime Minister to his motor car, into which he climbed as quickly as possible and drove off."

In the morning (Friday) Mrs. Marshall took a copy of VOTES FOR WOMEN to Mr. Asquith's house, and attached to it the article from the previous issue on "Catholic Emancipation," by Mr. Clayton.

MR. RUNCIMAN.

Gatherings of farmers, provided the new Minister of Board of Agriculture is present, appear to be marked down as the Suffragists' special hunting grounds! At York recently, members of the local W.S.P.U. were successful in securing a short talk with Mr. Runciman,

one as he left the train, and the other at the "City Arms." Though there was much secrecy as to the time of his arrival, so that it seemed impossible to obtain the necessary information, the Suffragettes "got there." At Preston, too, on Saturday last, on the occasion of the Lancashire Farmers' Association Annual Dinner, Mrs. Rigby entered the Market Hall disguised as a market woman, with a basket of produce. "I succeeded," she says, "in passing into the hall unobserved twenty-five minutes before the time of the meeting, but was found by the vigilant chief steward, and I consented to leave the building." Mrs. Rigby had previously written on January 30, asking Mr. Runciman to receive a small deputation, in order that the women might place before him the immense amount of labour which falls to women in agriculture, and the inadequacy of their recognition. She pointed out that the Treasurer of the local Union dealt with many Lancashire farmers as travelling agent and chief clerk in a small hay and straw business; that the local Union had in the six years of its existence done excellent work in the locality in showing and spreading the thoughtful demand for women's enfranchisement. The letter concluded, "and by this we stand until it is achieved." Mr. Runciman replied that he feared he would have no opportunity of meeting them; and that his views were well known, and had been frequently expressed in public. It was after the reception of this letter that Mrs. Rigby disguised herself, and went to the Market Hall. After being discovered she sent a letter asking for five minutes' speech. As no reply came, the following telegram was despatched to Mr. Runciman:—"Once again you have refused to acknowledge the women's claim for justice and votes in reward for their toil on our English land." Members of the W.S.P.U. waited outside the hall for a moment's speech with Mr. Runciman, who, however, departed another way.

LABOUR AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

The following resolution has been unanimously adopted at a business meeting of the members of the London Fabian Society:—

That in view of the Prime Minister's pronouncement in regard to the proposed Reform Bill, this meeting of the Fabian Society declares that no measure will be acceptable which does not include both men and women, and urges the Government to introduce a genuine measure of Adult Suffrage, establishing political equality between the sexes. It points out that as the majority of the male workers is already enfranchised, and as this majority is also a majority of our adult males, the introduction of manhood suffrage will make little change in anything except the machinery of elections and the number of names on the register; and can, therefore, be taken only as a formal and emphatic denial of the suffrage to women in reply to their recent agitation. Under these circumstances the meeting pledges itself to support the campaign throughout the country in favour of complete adult suffrage without distinction of sex, and to do its utmost to discredit and protest against the form in which the forthcoming Government Bill has been forecast by the Prime Minister. This meeting further declares that the suggestion put forward by certain sections of the Liberal Press that Woman's Suffrage should be made the subject of a Referendum should be strongly opposed on the ground that Woman's Suffrage is a question on which it is impossible to take a poll of the persons who are most vitally concerned therein.

The following branches of the I.L.P. have passed resolutions against the Manhood Suffrage Bill:—Barnet, Wandsworth, Scarborough, Fulham, Dulwich and Ealing. At a meeting held in the Foresters' Hall, Dundee, a resolution demanding a genuine measure of Adult Suffrage was also passed. The speakers were Mr. Thos. Johnston, the editor of *Forward*, Mr. Robt. Stirton, and Miss Husband.

In the current issue of the *Labour Leader* the following appears in a stirring appeal with reference to next Tuesday's Albert Hall meeting to demand adult suffrage:—

"Electoral injustice exists for men, but only as individuals; electoral injustice exists for women not as individuals, but as a sex. The most passionate and powerful political agitation our generation has seen has forced the Government to take action. If that action is to be on democratic lines, if it is to establish political equality and set free a subject sex, then the task of organising public opinion, of forcing forward the claim of the disfranchised and securing electoral justice, can best be done by those who in their political work and agitation have always advocated fair and equal treatment for both sexes, by those who are inspired by the Socialist ideal. Therefore we go to the Royal Albert Hall. Four meetings on the Suffrage question will be held during the month at the Albert Hall. Our meeting comes first (February 13). Our task is to see that in numbers, enthusiasm, and deep conviction the position of first place is maintained."

A CHILD AND A DOG.

A correspondent draws our attention to the case of Harry Sexton, aged 22, of North Street, Hackney, who was indicted at the Middlesex Sessions for stealing at Finchley an Aberdeen terrier dog, value £10, belonging to Mr. Cecil Charles Harrington, of Fawley Road, West Hampstead, and was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour. Our correspondent draws a comparison between this case and the recent case at Godalming, when a married man of 28 was sentenced to four months' hard labour for assaulting a little girl of seven and a half years of age, "an assault," our correspondent adds, "that had been going on for a period of six months, and which means the moral ruin of the child for life; but then—the dog was worth £10."

BY-ELECTION. EAST EDINBURGH

RESULT.

Mr. J. M. Hogg (L.)	5,084
Mr. J. G. Jamieson (U.)	4,120
Lib. Maj.	964

Result in Dec., 1910.—Sir J. P. Gibson, Bart. (L.), 6,190; B. M. Cameron (L.U.), 3,785. Lib. Maj., 2,405.

The tremendous fall in the Liberal majority (2,654 to 925) is a striking verdict against the Government. The W.S.P.U. worked incessantly to bring about this satisfactory result, and may justly claim to have materially influenced it. Certainly no other political cause aroused so much sympathetic attention. "From first to last," our correspondent reports, "Suffragists dominated the constituency. Women speakers were everywhere; their cars, decked in purple, white, and green, criss-crossed through the streets. They assembled huge crowds, who listened to their case with earnestness." The *Edinburgh Evening News* (Liberal) said: "Some of the finest orations of the election campaign come from these women. In the point of view of sincerity, rhetoric, eloquence, marshalling of a case, and pointed and at times personal speech—with the Prime Minister as the objective—the ladies have it."

MRS. PANKHURST AT LIVERPOOL.

A very large company gathered at the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, to see the "Pageant of Great Women," organised by the W.S.P.U., and produced by Miss Edith Craig, and to listen to a stirring address from Mrs. Pankhurst. "So far as her own section of the Suffrage movement was concerned, they had always worked," she said, "for Votes for Women on the same terms as men, and they would take no less. They were not fighting men, or trying to be like men, but they were trying to share the power of men; so that they might do their part to put straight some of the tangles into which humanity had fallen."

MRS. LAWRENCE AT GLOUCESTER.

Many strangers were attracted to the meeting addressed by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence at Gloucester on Tuesday in last week, on account of the excitement aroused in the town by newspaper accounts of the assault upon Miss Flatman at the Liberal meeting addressed by Mr. Hobhouse a few days previously. As described in VOTES FOR WOMEN last week, two women who attempted to put a question of Woman Suffrage to Mr. Hobhouse were treated with extreme violence by Liberal stewards. These assaults on three unresisting women, says the *Standard* (Woman's Platform), were the talk of the town, and as correspondents on the subject was going on in the local paper, there were many who flocked to hear the tale from Miss Flatman's own lips. About half a dozen of these same young Liberal stewards sat together, and in a spirit of bravado attempted to interrupt Miss Flatman, but they were dealt with so effectively by her that they soon collapsed into silence.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence dealt mainly with the present political position of the Woman Suffrage movement, drawing an analogy between the situation to-day and that created at the beginning of the nineteenth century over the struggle for the emancipation of Roman Catholics. Mrs. Lawrence explained that nothing less than a Government measure giving equal rights to men and women would satisfy the Women's Social and Political Union. It was necessary for women in these days to be practical politicians. Patience, trustfulness, and peaceful persuasion were of no more use to voteless women than they had been in the past to voteless men. If there was no indication in the King's Speech that the Government intended to bring in a Bill to give equal franchise, she hoped that Gloucester would send representatives to take part in the demonstration of protest which would then be necessary, and would be joined in by women from all over the country.

The resolution calling upon the Government to withdraw the Manhood Suffrage Bill, and to substitute a Bill giving equal rights to men and women, was carried almost unanimously.

UNIONISTS AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The Lobby correspondent of the *Standard* says:—"It is not proposed by the Unionist party to raise the question of Women's Suffrage as a single issue by means of an amendment to the Address. It is, however, the intention of the Opposition to challenge the whole suffrage policy of the Cabinet by an official amendment which will on general principles attack a reckless extension of the franchise while electoral areas and values are left so hopelessly unequal, and the Constitution is still in the melting-pot. This amendment will be aimed at the Manhood Suffrage Bill primarily, but it cannot fail to raise the question of Women's Suffrage, and should extract from the Government an explanation of their attitude. Another development in the Address will be, in all probability, concerned with the Referendum itself. I understand that it is the desire of numerous and influential Unionists to elicit an unambiguous statement from the Cabinet on the possible uses to which a poll of the people might be adapted. An amendment to the Address raising this issue will accordingly be framed, and there is every expectation that an opportunity for its consideration will be provided. Here again Votes for Women must assume importance."

NO MANHOOD SUFFRAGE!

The audience which assembled on Saturday afternoon to welcome Miss Christabel Pankhurst on her first visit to Belfast, last Saturday, was magnificent. The meeting was convened by the Belfast Women's Suffrage Society, Mrs. Chambers presided, and moved the following resolution: "That this meeting calls upon the Government to withdraw the Manhood Suffrage Bill, and to introduce instead a measure giving equal voting rights to men and women." Miss Pankhurst who was received with enthusiastic applause seconded the motion.

Referring to the methods used by the militant Suffragists, Miss Pankhurst said she did not think she need apologise for them in Ireland. (Laughter.) They knew very well what the Nationalists had done in their day and what they might do again. As for the people of Ulster—well, ask Mr. Winston Churchill what he thought of them. (Laughter and applause.) She did not think that after the way they had treated poor Mr. Churchill they ought to say anything about the Suffragists. After all, they could not do worse than prevent a Cabinet Minister from holding a meeting in a hall in which he wanted to speak. She was very much surprised to learn that some of the people of Belfast did not approve of the methods of the Suffragists. They said they were fighting in defence of their principles, and on behalf of the Suffragists she would reply that they were doing the same. (Applause.)

THE ONLY WAY!

If any member of the audience could tell her of any better methods than those the Suffragists had pursued to achieve their aim she would be glad to hear of them. Irish Unionist politician and their leaders were providing the Suffragists with excellent principles, and they were telling them how they must act when their principles were threatened. In Belfast the Unionists might, in regard to Mr. Churchill, have adopted the plan followed by the Suffragists when they silenced Mr. Asquith at the City Temple. As to stonethrowing, stones were after all very respectable, and the stones thrown by the Suffragists did not do any harm, as they were not thrown at heads, but at windows. If the tales she had heard were correct, however, windows were beneath their notice in Ulster. (Laughter.) They liked to do much more damage than that. When they considered that they themselves had done much more violent things for no greater motive than that which animated the Suffragists, they ought not to criticise the methods of the latter. As the result of five or six years' steady militant action the women had nearly brought about a split in the Cabinet. When they first began to be militant, people said they were very foolish, and that no notice need be taken of them; but now their cause had so far advanced that when the London newspapers took to discussing the Government and their difficulties they gave first place to Woman's Suffrage.

The time had arrived when women must be recognised as human beings. A change was coming over them. The woman of the twentieth century was different from the woman of the nineteenth century. There might be some who did not approve of their methods, but because of what the Suffragists had done they were all the stronger for it. Their point of view had been changed more than they knew, and to-day women stood higher in the estimation of their men folk than ever before. (Applause.) She believed that when the history of this period came to be written the most important question would be the revolution on the part of woman, whereby they set themselves free from the subjection of centuries, and as a result of which they won their position as the equals and partners of men in the business and the work of life. (Applause.)

At the close the resolution was passed with three dissentients. After the meeting a dinner was given in the Carlton Restaurant in honour of Miss Pankhurst's visit.

LABOUR DEMANDS ADULT SUFFRAGE.

A great meeting was held in Glasgow on Wednesday last week, under the auspices of the Independent Labour Party. The audience of about 2,000 was largely composed of women, and the suffrage question was the chief theme. Miss Christabel Pankhurst spoke of the example which the Labour Party set to both Liberals and Unionists by being united on the greatest political question of the day—woman suffrage. There were two points on which they all must insist—First, that the vote should be given to women on perfect equality with men; and second, that the Government themselves should take the responsibility for carrying that reform into effect.

Princess Bariatinsky, the well-known Russian actress, said that to her, a Russian woman, it was incomprehensible that the English people, who had always been in the forefront of the struggle for freedom, refused to make women citizens in the fullest sense, while in Russia they were widely converted to the belief in the great part played by women in the world.

Mr. Keir Hardie said that it almost looked as though the Government were leading the

ship to make sure she would sink before this session ran its course. The Government had invited trouble over the question of the suffrage. Their attitude upon it was the most undignified and most illogical which any Government could possibly assume. They said that if a majority of the House of Commons carried a Woman Suffrage Amendment they would then insert that in the Bill and become responsible for it. But if they were going to bow to the will of the majority in the House of Commons, why did they not bow to the will of the majority in the Cabinet? The opinion of the House of Commons had been expressed over and over again, and there had been bigger majorities for Woman Suffrage during the past six years in the House of Commons than for any other political question. The opinion of the House of Commons was not in doubt.

The heads of the Government wanted the Manhood Suffrage Bill through, but they did not want it to include women. It was now for women Suffragists to say that they would vote against and try to defeat the Bill unless women were in it on a full-blooded franchise.

Speaking for himself and for many of his colleagues, he said they would oppose this Government Bill both by speech and vote, and by a campaign in the country unless women were included.

A Resolution demanding a genuine measure of Adult Suffrage was passed.

Many copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN were sold at the meeting.

WOMEN HEROES.

The roll of heroines for the year 1911 has been indeed a long and remarkable one, containing as it does a list of old and young who in the presence of great danger have shown wonderful coolness and courage. None has been braver than old Jeanne Monnet, the French nurse, who paid with her life for an act of self-sacrifice on behalf of three children committed to her care. Jeanne was seventy-four years old, and had spent the greater part of her life in the service of the same family. Recently she was looking after her old mistress's grandchildren, and one evening, having given them their supper and put them to bed she began to prepare her own meal. In filling a lamp she spilt some paraffin on a plate which she had left on the kitchen table, and when lighting the lamp shortly after, dropped a burning match into the plate, which instantly blazed. In trying to extinguish it the nurse became enveloped in flames, but throwing herself on the ground, she rolled herself in a rug until they were extinguished. Fearful lest she should frighten the little ones, who were just going to sleep, the faithful servant never uttered a cry, despite the awful pain she was suffering. Crawling back to the bedside she sat crooning songs and baby talk until her charges were asleep, and was found, in silent agony, sitting at the bedside of the sleeping children, so terribly burned that when taken to hospital she only survived a short time.

No less brave was little Ada Tidbould, one of the five little girls fatally burned at Chesterfield Picture Palace recently. Seeing her little friend Lizzie Bell in flames, Ada rushed forward and tried to extinguish them by beating the flames with her hands. Although the poor child's own clothing caught fire, she persevered. She was soon a mass of flame, however, and only survived her terrible injuries a few hours.

Nurse Topliss was recently commended for her bravery at an inquest at Redhill, on a patient who committed suicide at a nursing home. The nurse told a terrible story of how her patient got out of bed, dashed past her, and attempted to throw herself out of the window. Nurse Topliss caught her in time, and a terrible struggle ensued, in which the patient fell through the window. When the nurse hurried downstairs she found her hacking at her throat with a piece of glass. After another struggle the nurse succeeded in getting her back to the home, but unfortunately, the injuries to the throat proved fatal.

It will be remembered that during the recent floods in South Wales Miss Sarah J. Howells, a young teacher, lost her life in a successful effort to save one of her pupils from drowning. Her heroism is now to be recognised by the raising of a monument to her memory. In an appeal for subscriptions through the press, Lord Aberdare writes: "She must have known that in plunging into the raging flood she was going to almost certain death, and with only a slight chance of saving the boy's life. By her promptness and courage she succeeded in getting the boy to land, but was herself carried away by the flood. An act of such sublime self-sacrifice and courage deserves recognition from the whole community."

In complimenting Mrs. Ward at the West London Court recently for her conduct in having been largely responsible for the capture of a prisoner, Mr. Fordham remarked that recently several instances of great pluck shown by women had come before him, and it was very much to their credit.

Woman at Highgate: I go out to work at 7.30 in the morning and return at 8.30 at night.

The Clerk: What does your husband do? Woman: He stays at home, does the housework, and looks after the baby. [Query: Which has the vote?]

THE BEGUM OF BHOPAL

Asks for Better Education for Women.

Speaking at the recent Mahomedan Anglo-Oriental Educational Conference to an audience of men, the Begum of Bhopal, the third in succession of a line of women rulers, referred to the position of women in India saying:—"The history of our community as well as daily experience fully prove that it is the neglect and want of due attention of men which are responsible for the ignorance of women, which has done much more harm to men than to women. But, thank God, efforts are now being made to make up for past negligence, and many of those obstacles which stood in the way of female education, most of them were self-created, have now been removed. But many still remain to be overcome and they are most difficult, and if you fail to cope with them with courage and determination you will betray not only want of manliness, but of justice as well. At the same time, the signs of the time and the condition of our community afford me full assurance that you will not cease your efforts in this cause unless and until you have succeeded in bringing up the weaker sex to your own level so that they may become your real help mates and useful companions in this life; and with the help of God your resolve is bound to succeed."

WHO KEEPS THE HOME?

A sad though only too common story of poverty was recently told at an inquest at Battersea concerning the death of a labourer. The widow told the coroner that her husband had been out of work since June, and that she had had to work hard to keep him and her five children. She worked at a laundry four days a week, and said she was paid 2s. 6d. for a day of twelve hours. When the coroner's officer called on Christmas Day she had neither fire nor food in the house.

An article appeared recently in the Daily Chronicle showing clearly that in money matters in the home it is the woman who pays. "It is always the woman who pays. In the long run or in short commons. In pounds, shillings, and pence as in blood and sweat and tears." Even when the husband's wages are raised everyone benefits except the woman. "Rather than stint her man—and incidentally her children—she stints herself. She pinches and scrapes, she schemes and contrives, takes one lump of sugar in her tea instead of two as formerly, and in a dozen other unconsidered ways makes both ends meet—as it were the two ends of a belt—round her own starved and wasted body."

DR. CAMPBELL AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

It is interesting—especially remembering a notable protest in the City Temple—that the Rev. Dr. Campbell, pastor of that church, declared to an American interviewer that "the only way to get anything you want in politics in England is to make yourself a nuisance." He affirmed his belief in Woman Suffrage, which he declared imminent, and we are told, when asked if the women who went out and made demonstrations on the streets of London were held in great esteem in London, answered: "O dear, yes. The women are all very gentle."

MISS DAVISON'S APPEAL REFUSED.

An application was made on February 5 before the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Hamilton and Lush, in the Court of Criminal Appeal, for leave to appeal against sentence on behalf of Emily Wilding Davison, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment on January 10 at the Central Criminal Court for two offences—placing in a letter-box on December 8 a certain noxious matter likely to injure letters, and, on December 14, attempting to put fire in a letter-box in Parliament Street.

Mr. H. H. Schloesser, for the appellant, explained that the applicant, being unrepresented by counsel before the Recorder, had failed to put her case in a proper way.

The Lord Chief Justice said that the appellant was an educated woman, who desired to call the attention of the Government to the rights of women by doing what was an illegal act.

Mr. Schloesser said there was no intention to do injury to the letters. The appellant's desire was to be arrested. On the second occasion she communicated with the Press, and the police were there in consequence of the information given.

The Lord Chief Justice, giving the decision of the court, said that the woman pleaded guilty, and the case was conducted on that plea and eventually she admitted her guilt. They were asked to say that the sentence was too severe for a woman of education, who knew perfectly well the difference between right and wrong. It was now said that she should have a less severe sentence because of the way in which she acted, and because she had allowed herself to be caught on the second occasion; also because she had desired to call the attention of the Government to the necessity of putting Woman Suffrage in the King's Speech. If the court did that it would have no answer to give to any poor wretched person who had a grievance and tried to call attention to it by committing a criminal act. There was not the slightest ground for suggesting that the sentence was too severe. The application was accordingly refused.

UNDER MEN'S GOVERNMENT.

It is sometimes suggested as an argument for the exclusion of women from the franchise that the vote controls not merely domestic, but also Imperial legislation. The following facts cast a lurid light upon how the Government of India, which is ultimately responsible to the British Parliament, controlled by male electors, safeguards the interests of women in that vast dependency.

Some time ago in Poona City Dr. Harold Mann received word that a girl of about fourteen years old, the daughter of nominal Christian parents, had been sold to a Pathan in Poona City, in payment of a debt of few rupees. A member of the Committee of the Society for the Protection of Children immediately went to the spot, and found that this was truly the case; the girl had just been sent into the rooms occupied by the purchaser, and there she was found, in the evening, sitting crying. They were able, after a good deal of trouble, to take away the girl immediately, and a case was almost at once instituted against the Pathan for procuring a girl for immoral purposes. The Poona City magistrate who originally tried the case held that she was taken by the Pathan for the purpose of concubinage, that concubinage was illegal, and that the Pathan obtained her well knowing that the concubinage was likely to lead to prostitution. The offender was therefore sentenced to a substantial penalty.

Decision Reversed on Appeal.

The Pathan, however, took the case to the High Courts, and the decision was there reversed; it was held that any man might have a concubine, even if she was a little girl below the age of sixteen, and even though there was every probability of its leading to a permanently evil life.

On this the Society submitted an appeal to the Government of Bombay in which it suggested that an attempt should be made to amend the existing law.

The Government will do Nothing.

The result was that the Government consulted leading members of every community to ascertain whether any objection could be raised against the proposal to make it illegal to obtain possession of a girl below the age of sixteen for concubinage or any other purpose except legal marriage, and came to the conclusion that it would interfere with a number of recognised customs and might lead to resentment and opposition from "perfectly respectable classes." They therefore decided to do nothing.

The Times of India commenting on the case says that any opinions that the Government might have received to that effect are not the opinions of men whose views should carry weight in considering a question affecting the honour and happiness of helpless young girls.

It is evident from what Dr. Mann says that the traffic is a more widely extended one than people imagine.

AN OFFENCE AGAINST A CHILD.

Another case of disgraceful leniency to a man found guilty of an offence against a little girl of 11 years occurred at Chippenham on Monday last.

The prisoner was originally sentenced to a month's hard labour, but appealed that he might be allowed to pay a fine. The magistrates, Major Cotes and Mayor A. M. Stevens, said they were willing to impose a fine only if they were empowered to do so, in view of the prisoner's otherwise good character. In the end a fine of £2 was inflicted, which was promptly paid.

Such cases of men's administration are occurring all over the country. It is only women who see how abominable these crimes are. How much longer is women's opinion to be shut out from the Government of the country?

PENALISING A SUFFRAGIST TEACHER.

On Tuesday, February 6, the Hornsey Education Committee considered the case of Miss Francis Oramton, a teacher who took part in the W.S.P.U. Protest last November. It will be remembered that the Education Committee decided to suspend her without payment till the end of the year, to withhold her annual increment of £5 for that year, and to remove her to another school. Miss Oramton made application for her salary for the period she was under suspension, and the Schools' Staff Sub-Committee recommended the Education Committee to pay the sum of £14 14s. 8d. and to give her a month's notice. Mr. Walter Gaskell said he thought that the committee was taking too drastic a step, and moved the reference back of the recommendation. He had, however, only two supporters, and the recommendation was carried.

MR. LEWIS HARCOURT.

Following on the report in last week's VOTES FOR WOMEN of the deposition to Mr. Harcourt, Miss Annie Kenney writes:—

"Funds are urgently needed to help in the work in the Rosendale Valley. The women all over this scattered constituency must be brought into touch with our movement, each elector must be asked to refrain from helping in any way to keep Mr. Harcourt in office, unless he lives up to Liberal principles. All Cheques and Postal Orders to be sent to me at 4, Clements Inn. Gratefully acknowledged, £5."

BOOKS AND PLAYS.

ABOUT CHILDREN.

As the Rt. Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P., says in his introduction to this useful handbook, "The phrase 'children of the State' has no defensible physical meaning, for, as a candid orator once said in Parliament, 'Man is born of a woman and not of a local government board.'" Yet, as he proceeds to say, the phrase does convey the idea of the responsibility of the State towards the individual child, and the whole book shows the extent to which the State has been realising this responsibility in recent years. The result, as might be expected for various reasons, of which not the least is the absence of the woman's hand in the matter, has been a considerable amount of overlapping. The author shows this in an amusing passage taken from the chapter called "The State as Foster-Parent":—

Again, the same child may be fed either by the local education authority or by the Poor-law guardians, with different consequences to himself and his parents; and while in most cases the education authority is asked to furnish him with dinner alone, he must ask the guardians for breakfast and tea. But the dignity of the County Council is vindicated by the verminous child, for though he may be washed by the borough, it so be that he submits, yet the County Council may wash him *in invitum* or compel his father to do so, and fine him if he will not.

Mr. Runciman, in his introductory remarks, commends the book also to "those who may wish to have some clear understanding of those laws which they are anxious to amend," and it is probably from this point of view that the book will commend itself most to women Suffragists. There is much food for reflection in the two chapters entitled "The Rights of Parents" and "The Duties of Parents"; and anyone who thinks that the law is equal for mothers and fathers, or that the woman is "the spoilt child of the law," has but to read the passage on page 126, which occurs in the chapter on "Crimes by and against Children," in order to see how the patronising attitude of the Courts towards the mother may be reduced to absurdity. Speaking of the right of the parent to punish a child below the age of seven, before the law can touch it, the writer says:—

No doubt, in the case of young children, such punishment is more commonly administered by the mother, and the Courts have even ruled that the father ought to leave to her that department of domestic economy. Yet the mother does not punish in her own right, but only by virtue of the delegated authority of the father.

It would be interesting to see what would happen if a mother convicted of cruelty to her child were to plead that she acted only "by virtue of the delegated authority of the father"! The sentimentality of the whole thing is summed up in a quotation from another authority: "A mother as such is entitled to no power, but only to reverence and respect." Every mother who thinks she does not need a voice in the making of the laws ought to read this admirably compiled handbook of the law as it has already been made.

E. S.

MARRIED MISERY.

In a series of stories entitled "The Blood Moon" (Everett, 2s.), Mrs. Irene Osgood deals mainly with marital unhappiness of greater or less degree. Some of the stories, such as the first which gives its title to the book, and the Algerian tales, which are full of the mystery and witchery of the East, are pure tragedy; the others deal with the clash of temperaments of ill-mated pairs—unfaithfulness, intemperance, greed, despotism on the husband's side, and the revulsion of feeling on the woman's. We cannot help thinking that with wider interests the women of these stories might have had happier lives. But though she writes not of the women of to-day, as we meet them in the great movement for emancipation, Mrs. Osgood shows one heroine who rebels against the lot ordained for her by men:—

"In every rank of life the wife is the household drudge. And housekeeping, being monotonous, matter-of-fact, recurrent, uninteresting, is drudgery, and it has often occurred to me that, of the two partners in married life, it should be the one who has ideals, poetry, aspirations, who is constrained to occupy herself entirely with the squalid details of scullery and larder, of store-room and pantry. . . . These wretched interests have been forced upon us by the men."

and she concludes: "There is not one woman living, I fancy, who has not often revolted against the monotony and drudgery of her life."

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN."

The Englishwoman for February (Sidgwick and Jackson, 1s. net) contains as usual a large number of interesting articles. Of greatest practical value, perhaps, is that dealing with "Women in the Public Health Service," by M. Meredith, who summarises the work of women in this direction, not only in posts under local authorities, but in hospitals and other institutions. Dealing with public health the writer points out various cases in which the assistance of women would be of value, and refers to the notable omission of women from the large majority of public bodies responsible for administering the Midwives Act. The inspection of midwives is largely carried on by men, and women are not allowed to compete on fair terms for most of the posts in maternity hospitals, a ridiculous state of affairs under which a body of male amateurs supervises a practice which should naturally be in the hands of women. It may not be known to the general

"Children and the Law," By W. H. Stuart Garnett. (Murray, 2s. 6d. net.)

reader that the man midwife is a comparatively recent innovation in this country, and is almost unknown in many parts of the Continent. The profession is one which has been wrested out of the hands of women, in whose care it should rightly be. Under the heading of "District Nurses," in which a high tribute is paid to the work of the nurses under the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, the writer says:

It is to be hoped that proper provision for the supply and fair payment of district nurses will be made by the Insurance Commissioners, but when the doctors are so ill-satisfied with their own prospects under the Bill, there seems little prospect of a body of voteless women receiving attention to their claims.

Speaking of sanitary inspectors, the writer points out that women ought to be responsible for visiting common lodging houses where women are received, whereas in many places this duty is given over to the police. Under the title "Health Visitors," the writer points out that at present there are very few women relieving officers, although this work, much of which consists in visiting the homes of the sick and of children for whom out-relief is given, and in interviewing unmarried mothers, could be far more suitably performed by women than by men.

MRS. FRY.

Another of the excellent "Cameo Life-Sketches" by Mrs. Marion Holmes has been published by the Women's Freedom League, at 3d. The two first dealt with Josephine Butler and Florence Nightingale; this one gives the story of Mrs. Elizabeth Fry and her noble work for prison reform. The booklets are clearly written and excellent for those who have not the time to study long biographies. They can be obtained at the Woman's Press, 156, Charing Cross Road, W.C.

"Deeds, Not Words" is the motto of the W.S.P.U. Yet words are a necessary adjunct to deeds, and a knowledge of the derivation of language must be helpful to all those who need to use words as a medium whereby they give expression to thoughts and ideas. Mr. Blackburn's recent work, "A Study of Words," will be of service to all who desire a wide knowledge and command of their mother tongue.

A NEW "MEDEA."

On Monday, February 5th, in a matinée at the Kingsway Theatre, the New Players produced the "Medea" of Euripides in the beautiful translation of Professor Gilbert Murray. The performance was not only an event of artistic interest, but was sufficiently real to grip and hold the sympathies of the audience throughout, a convincing proof of the vitality of a drama first performed in 431 B.C., and of its adequate rendering before spectators of the present day. It was indeed produced throughout with sympathetic understanding of the beauties of the text, with due reverence and attention to detail. The chorus, led by Miss Evelyn Walsh Hall, did their part excellently, avoiding monotony, the voices pleasantly pitched; and they provided charming pictorial effects in colour and grouping, especially with the dark-robed Medea in the centre, to whom Miss Agnes Brayton made an admirable contrast. A charming scenic effect was achieved when Medea disappeared into the palace in twilight.

Dramatic interest, of course, centres round Medea, and Miss Adeline Bourne may be congratulated on her success in an extremely arduous rôle, the personification of which, in our day, is perhaps unavoidably connected with something of the neurotic. Miss Bourne was a slender, passionate figure, brooding on her wrongs, by turn fierce, cajoling, sneering, but in the scenes with the children tender and graceful.

The Jason of Mr. Philip Merivale was handsome and manly, as it should be, without subtlety. The Ægeus, too, of Mr. James Hearn deserves praise, as does the excellent dramatic rendering of the Messenger, Mr. Franklin Dyal; Miss Tita Brand declaimed the nurse's lines very finely. May we suggest, however, that her head-dress rather suggested the widow's bonnet? Altogether the New Players deserve the warmest thanks of all who were privileged to witness the performance.

THE DANGER OF IGNORANCE.

One of the most powerful agencies for the teaching of newer and better ideas is, as we pointed out last week, the stage. The woman's movement in one form or another has been the theme of many recent plays by authors who want to make the drama represent real life and progress. One of the most recent, "The Blindness of Virtue," by Cosmo Hamilton, which is being played at the Little Theatre, points out, by a clever and dramatic plot, the wrong done to a young girl by leaving her in ignorance of the meaning of her womanhood. This truth is brought home to two loving but foolish parents by the sad fate of a village girl, who repeats frankly her betrayer's excuse that the evil arose from her ignorance. That knowledge alone gives protection is the lesson learnt by the parents, who have brought up their own daughter in total ignorance of the meaning of sex. It may be questioned whether any girl of 19, however ignorant, would act quite as does this heroine, but the play teaches plainly a lesson that many people still need.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"How to Start a Women's Lodging House." By Mary Higgs. London: P. S. King and Son. Price 3d.

"The Malthusian." London: George Standring. Price 1d.

"Of the Emancipation of Women." By Caroline Eccles. London: A. C. Fifield. Price 3d. net.

"Songs of the Devon Moors." Words by Edward Teschemacher. Music by Herbert Oliver. London: J. H. Larway. Price 3s. net.

"Songs of Womanhood." Words by Christina Walsh. Music by Rutland Broughton. London: H. Larway. Price 3s. net.

"Infant Care and Housecraft." By Dr. H. Emlyn Jones and Rev. J. W. Hayes. George Philip and Son, Ltd. Price 3d.

"Blackburn's Study of Words." By R. M. Blackburn, M.A. London: Longmans, Green and Company. 3s. 6d.

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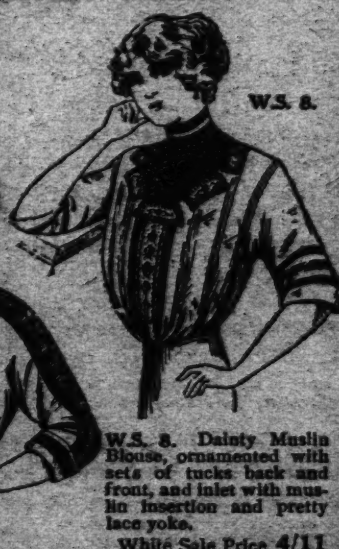
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PRINCESS BARIATINSKI.

"It has struck me as so strange that in a country like England, noted for its love of freedom, and regarded by all other nations as the birthplace of liberty, your Liberal Government will not even talk to women and hear what they have to say."

It was a strange criticism, coming from a native of the land which we associate with tyranny and repression, and it shows us once again how much this country has suffered in prestige through the treatment by its Ministers of the Woman Suffrage question. It was the Princess Bariatinski (who has given us such a wonderful personation of Nora in "A Doll's House," and whose words at the great meeting in Glasgow on Wednesday last brought new inspiration to so many of those who heard them) who expressed this opinion.

We have a nominally Liberal Government, but its attitude to women is barbaric; in Russia the Government may be autocratic and tyrannical, but men and women stand on a more equal plane. When Russia wins a constitution and a franchise, it will be for both men and women equally, for there is in that country no sense of woman's inferiority. In art, science, literature—in every field she has won an equal position for herself, not by indirect influence, but openly by her merits, and there is not a Russian to-day of the intellectual class who regards women as in any way inferior. The Russian woman, even in aristocratic and official classes, receives equal education,



["Daily Mirror" Studios.]

PRINCESS BARIATINSKI, AS NORA.

and if she wishes goes on to the universities and enters a profession. There is camaraderie and mutual respect, not the false chivalry which would treat women as enchanting dolls, and demand of them only that they should be womanly. "What is womanly?" said the Princess to me. "It is ridiculous; they are to be playthings and gain their ends by trickery and in their souls are lies."

This the Princess told me in a short conversation just before a rehearsal. She is one of those busy people who can find time for impossibilities, and she is quite a Suffragette. "I can feel the pulse of this movement," she said. "I was most impressed by it when I first came to England. Lady Knyvett took me to a meeting and I heard three Suffragettes who had just been released describe the hunger strike, which I as a Russian understood. The mother of a friend of mine had undergone it as a protest in Siberia, but they had not attempted forcible feeding. Of course the suffrage will come soon. It is only the people of no imagination who would stop it; who think as things exist they must go on for ever and ever, but they cannot stop progress."

It is not surprising to hear that the Princess likes best the part of Nora, which she interprets so marvelously. "It is so rare," she said, "to find a great part for a woman where the predominating interest is not one of love. People who repeat what is frequently said, that plays cannot thrill the public without a regular love theme, forget "A Doll's House." The mighty genius of Ibsen saw deeper into the psychology of women, and in Nora he has created a character where love pales before the desire for independence. In Russian literature this type is much better known: for instance, Turgenev's women burn with the desire to sacrifice themselves for lofty aims." The Princess hopes to bring out by-and-by a play by Sonia Kowalevsky, which will be of particular interest to women.



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VOTES FOR WOMEN

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1912.

BE READY!

For every political party or group the present moment is one of uncertainty and suspense. The opening of Parliament next week is awaited with anxiety. Meanwhile, pledges given on behalf of the Government one day are discounted by official or semi-official voices on the next, with the result that public confidence in the honesty and purpose of the nominal leaders of the country is shaken. At such a time only those whose reliance is placed upon themselves are strong.

The Women's Social and Political Union finds itself in that position. Rumours do not disquiet us. Promises do not elate or betrayals depress us. For we know that political liberties are won to-day as they have been won in the past, not by the favour and good will of Governments, but by the relentless pressure of political force, which is generated by those who possess a single aim, and the determination to pursue it at all hazards and at every cost.

The immediate success or the temporary defeat of the cause of women's enfranchisement depends to-day not upon the opinions in the Cabinet nor upon the academic views of the individuals who comprise the House of Commons, but upon the spirit and the "grit" of the awakened womanhood of the country. Are the women of the country prepared, here and now, to act? If so, they can unite the Cabinet for action. They can sweep away in 1912 the political disability of sex as surely and as completely as the Irish Catholics, roused to action by Daniel O'Connell, united the Duke of Wellington's Cabinet, and swept away in 1829 the political disability of creed.

We have had occasion recently to draw the attention of Suffragists to the extraordinarily close historical parallel to the present political position supplied by the agitation for Catholic Emancipation. Then, as now, the question for many years cut across both the great parties in the State. Then, as now, succeeding Cabinets were divided, and both Whig and Tory Ministers were allowed to proclaim as individuals their views upon the question, instead of recognising the joint responsibility of all with regard to the action or inaction of the Government. Then, as now, private Members' Bills were introduced into Parliament and passed second reading again and again. Then, as now, lacking Government support, such Bills were abortive for all practical purposes. Then, as now, by common consent of both parties the question was evaded at the elections. Then, as now, the Prime Minister of the Government in power was a convinced opponent. Then, as now, the position was one of political deadlock.

It was when hope and effort seemed dead that there was lifted up in Ireland the standard of revolt. Thousands flocked to it. A militant organisation spread throughout the country, and became so strong in numbers that the Government's methods of repression were rendered ineffective. Then, as now, there was an outcry against militant tactics in Parliament, in the Press, and amongst "the friends and supporters of the Movement." We find in Roebuck's "History of the Whig Ministry" the following very interesting and very illuminating statement:—

The parliamentary friends of Catholic Emancipation professed to be shocked by this conduct, and took every opportunity of expressing their disapprobation of it. [O'Connell's] proceedings, and the Duke of Wellington stated that the excitement caused by the Catholic Association prevented all possibility of granting the Catholics the privileges which they demanded. In this case the Irish members of the House of Commons eagerly joined; and yet it was apparent to every man of common sense in and out of the House that the sole cause of the attention paid to the question of Catholic Emancipation and the demands of the Irish people was the trouble given by Mr. O'Connell and his formidable organisation. Had there been quiet in Ireland, the rulers both in England and Ireland would have adjoined this very quiet to prove that no grievances existed, and would have lumbered over the evils which left their repose undisturbed.

For the correctness of the historian's view we need no further corroboration than that of the Duke of

Wellington himself, who, when he became, as Prime Minister, responsible for the introduction of a Government Bill to emancipate the Catholics, said that "the Ministry had to choose between concession and civil war."

The story of Catholic Emancipation cannot be too closely studied by those who are concerned with the immediate issue of the Emancipation of Women. It provides a precedent and a moral for the Prime Minister, for the present Cabinet, and it also provides a complete answer to enemies and friends who criticise or who deplore militant methods.

But it provides above all a deep lesson, an example and a warning to Suffragists themselves.

It is not enough for us to recognise the success of "The Catholic Association" which definitely pitted itself against the Government in power and won. It is not enough for us to point to the political justification of O'Connell's militant methods. We have to ask ourselves very searching questions: Why did O'Connell's militancy succeed? And the answer undoubtedly is: Because the Irish Catholics were ready for liberty. Because when O'Connell raised the standard of revolt thousands flocked to it, thousands were ready to risk their liberty and their life, and because thousands ran this risk the retaliation of the Government was rendered impossible.

What would have happened had the Catholics hung back, pleading individually the difficulties and dangers of their position? What would have happened had they allowed O'Connell and a few daring hundreds to fight this tremendous issue with the Government, while they, from a position of safety and immunity, gave sympathy and support? We know what must have happened. O'Connell and his little following would have been overwhelmed, the movement crushed, and the brave few visited with severe and cruel punishment.

What will history say of the womanhood of the United Kingdom in 1912? What will it say of the womanhood of the past six years? At a time when all hope of emancipation for women seemed dead, at the darkest hour of the movement, the standard of revolt was raised. A few brave souls responded. The mass of women, inured to subjection and hidebound by authority and convention, held back. For six years—a period of probation incredibly long—they have waited to see the capacity for leadership, the political sagacity, the dauntless courage, the self-immolation of those who initiated the militant campaign proved to the uttermost.

And now a moment of supreme crisis has arrived. Women! You whose eyes are opened, both with regard to the significance of the Woman's Movement and also with regard to the political necessity for organised militant action—what are you going to do? Are you going to respond to the call of your colleagues who have suffered imprisonment again and again for the Cause which is yours as much as it is theirs? Or are you going to leave that little band of heroes to the hazards of the conflict? Are you going to let the issues of this great struggle for your liberty and your honour rest upon their courage and their sacrifice? Or are you going to rise, each one, and come forth in your hundreds to break down by force of numbers the power of the Government to retaliate by police court procedure and prison repression?

I say to every woman who knows that ours is a sacred struggle for human liberty as any that has taken place in the past: If you let women who have suffered the forsaking of friends, violence and imprisonment time after time, go into danger again without you, go to prison again without you, then you are not worthy of them; you are not worthy of liberty and you do not deserve it; you are not worthy of your womanhood; you are not worthy of your potential self.

It is not only mean and cowardly for women to hold back now; it is unutterably foolish!

For six years you have seen this Movement grow from insignificance to its present position of power. You know it is only by hard fighting that it is within sight of victory. You have learnt to depend on the fighters. While you are watching, waiting, counting gain and loss, nursing your individual reluctances and scruples and fears, excusing yourself on account of ill-health, or because of the disapproval of relations and friends, those lives which have been kept all these years on the perpetual strain are wearing out.

You cannot count on the health, the strength, or the life of individuals. Have you faced that fact? How long are you prepared to allow this ordeal to continue? A general rising of women would end it. You, individually, could lighten it and help to end it. None need go to prison again. If they go, it is by your hesitation, you by your self-pity and self-indulgence, who are allowing the Government to send them there. You are not without responsibility in the matter.

Unless in the King's Speech a Government measure to give Votes to women is foreshadowed, Mrs. Pankhurst will place herself at the head of a great demonstration of protest which will take place about a fortnight after the opening of Parliament.

Let the Union as one woman rise and go with her. Let hesitations, scruples and fears be finally cast aside. Be ready! Let this Government that thinks to trifle with us because we are women, know once and for all that they rob us of the rights of human beings at the peril of social peace and social order. Then and not till then will justice be done.

Emmeline Pethick Lawrence.

Cheques should be made out to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and crossed "Barclay and Co."

THE QUALITY OF MERCY.

By Kathleen Mansel Pleydell.

It was a dark night in November in a poor quarter of London. Heavy showers of cold rain broke through the murky atmosphere, splashing upwards from the muddy pavement, soiling and soaking the skirts and trousers of passers-by. A young woman, bareheaded and clad in a neat but threadbare gown, gaunt and hollow-eyed from privations, pushed open the swing doors of a public house, and entered.

A moment later she emerged followed by a big, surly-looking, heavily-built man. "For Gawd's sake, Bill, give me a few coppers to buy bread and coal for the kids. It's Saturday night and there ain't a bit of anything left in the house." As the woman held out her hand she looked supplicatingly into the man's face.

"D— and blast you!" he burst out angrily. "Is that all you want? I gave you money three days ago, and I'll rot before you get another tanner! I earn the cash by hard work, so d— it all I've a right to spend it 'ow I choose!"

As the man turned to re-enter the saloon, his wife caught him by the sleeve. "Only a few coppers, Bill, I can't bear to go back and hear the kids a-crying." But he shook her off with an oath. "If yer want money go and earn it yerself. You're a likely looking wench still, and— but she fled before the last words were spoken.

A benevolent gentleman, a member of the Board of Guardians, hurrying home, his coat buttoned tightly and an umbrella held sideways to keep off the driving rain, heard loud sounds of sobbing and stopped.

"What is it, my good woman? Don't cry like that! Why, you are wet through and have no shawl or bonnet; you'll catch your death. There, there, tell me about it. What's wrong?"

"Oh, sir, help me, for Gawd's sake! My usband's in the public drinking away all his week's money, 'e won't give me as much as a copper and the kids is starving! 'elp me to get rid of him, sir, my patience is all gone. I'd work 'ard and keep myself and the young 'uns too if you'll only 'elp me to get quit of 'im! 'Ammerin' and starvation 'as wore me out! 'Elp me to get free of 'im!'"

The benevolent gentleman recoiled. "But my good woman, if you failed to get work you'd be on the parish and your children too! No, no, nonsense! You go home, and when your husband comes back humour him, and above all don't reproach him. Then he'll come round and it'll be all right. There, now go along home, there's a good soul. Why you'd be on the parish!" he muttered shaking his benevolent head as he hurried homewards.

The woman moved away but soon sank cold, exhausted, and faint, on to a doorstep. The rushing waters of the river seemed to be calling her insistently. She rose to her feet and staggered forward, when a tall woman with a gracefully poised head and a bundle of papers under her arm, came towards her. The beautiful soft dark eyes drew the poor outcast like a magnet.

"Oh Lady!" she exclaimed, as she stumbled to her side. "They say 'as 'ow women is 'arder to women than men. But it can't be! I don't want much. Only a loaf of bread for the kids, and to be quit of my man. 'E's used me cruel and now won't give me even a copper of his wages to buy food for the starving kids! I'm sick of it! I won't bear children to a man 'ate! If you'll only 'elp me to get rid of my usband I'll get a job and keep myself and the kids—" She stopped, because the Lady's face showed the pity she felt.

"Come with me, my poor woman," she said. "I've just seen the Bermondsey girls through in their struggle for a living wage, and I'll see you through too. You shall get your freedom and food for your babies as well." Then, taking off her own warm cloak she put it round the woman's shoulders, and the poor soul, seeing the badge of purple, white and green felt her spirits rise, for she recognised in the beautiful lady one of those brave women who work for their poorer sisters.

THE MOST VIGOROUS THING IN THE WORLD.

In a rousing speech to which the large audience responded with equal enthusiasm, Mrs. Mansel Moullin, at the Steinway Hall on Thursday last week, dwelt on the present critical situation and on the indomitable courage and determination with which the members of the W.S.P.U. would meet it. They had done one great thing—they had split the Government on the question. As to the Referendum, she did not think the Government dare use such a two-edged weapon, but looking round outside the movement, women could not see a single person whom they could trust.

"All last year we saw the Government flirting with Woman's Suffrage. The Prime Minister was as bad a flirt as any—indeed he made promises which he said he would carry out in the spirit as well as in the letter. Woman's Suffrage did not promise to love and obey him, but she said she would honour him

so long as he kept his word. Well, the engagement lasted just over the Corboration festivities, and then what happened? Woman's Suffrage was ruthlessly jilted. Never mind, 1912 is the woman's year—it is leap year. It is the woman's turn now to propose, and she has made her proposal to the Government. Nothing short of a Government measure for Woman's Suffrage, and if the Government does not accept her proposal, they will find that as they treated the Woman's Suffrage Bill, they will themselves be 'torpedoed,' and Humpty Dumpty will have a great fall.

"There are women in this Hall to-night who are giving their whole lives to this Cause, content to endure suffering, imprisonment, the loss of home, friends, employment. Do you think that a careless vote given by thoughtless people, selfish people, would have any effect on women such as these, women with whom they have nothing whatever in common except just life and the passage of time? Do you think that the Referendum would put a stop to our agitation? No, a thousand times no. The fact that the 'Antis' hailed the Referendum with joy and said it would be a fatal blow to Woman Suffrage has no terror for us, for we know nothing can kill Votes for Women, it is the most alive, the most vigorous thing in the whole world, and this glorious living thing is becoming stronger and stronger every day. It is being built up on the sacrifices and the bodies and the hearts of the pick of the women of the whole world. It can never die."

At the end of her speech Mrs. Mansel Moullin told a touching story of her last imprisonment. One of the 3rd class prisoners put a little note into her hand:—"I do not know your name and I do not know how I have the courage to write to you, but I feel you are a true friend. I hope you will succeed in your VOTES FOR WOMEN, but I am sorry you have to go to prison fighting for us poor women. I am going out on Tuesday week. I have been here six months and it has nearly drove me mad. I want to know if I can help you when I go out by advertising your valuable paper VOTES FOR WOMEN, or anything else I could do I would gladly do if you will only tell me what it is." This poor woman, an outcast from society, felt there was hope in her life, felt that she had something to live for, to look forward to, because for the first time in her life she had come across the stupendous glory of the sisterhood of women.

Miss Nancy Lightman made an interesting speech on the political situation and Miss Joachim took the chair in the absence of Mrs. Tuke.

MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST IN AMERICA.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who is lecturing in America, spoke recently at Boden College, Brunswick, where the president of the College was in the chair. The women present at the meeting decided to form an organisation to work for the vote. A delegation from the Suffrage Society of Portland, Maine, attended the meeting. Miss Pankhurst has received an invitation from the Publishers' League, New York, to address them at their Annual Dinner.

THE PERILS OF IGNORANCE.

Correspondence on the "Anti-Suffrage Campaign" in the *Manchester Guardian* has drawn the following striking testimony to the urgency of Woman Suffrage from Mr. W. Lyon Blesse. In the *Manchester Guardian* of February 7 he writes:—

"Will you permit me to tell your readers of an experience of my own? A Bill was introduced into the House of Commons last session which provided, among other things making it more difficult for men to use women as prostitutes, for raising the age of consent from sixteen to nineteen. The Bill was a private member's Bill, and coming on after the hour at which opposed business can be taken was blocked three times by a member raising his hat and saying 'I object.' On the first occasion, I regret to say, the Government were responsible; on the other two, private members. I met the member who was responsible for the Bill in the Lobby of the House shortly after the third obstruction. He said to me, 'Mr. Blesse, I am an anti-suffragist. But I do not believe that this Bill will ever be carried until women have votes. These people will fight to the death against raising the age of consent.'"

"That member remains an anti-suffragist, and is appearing on the platform at the Albert Hall at the great anti-suffrage demonstration a few days hence. In the face of this statement, proceeding from a conspicuous member of their own party, I cannot understand how the anti-suffragist women retain at once their political opinions and their zeal for the honour of their sex. I have done my best to circulate it as widely as possible among suffragists, and it has never failed to arouse them to a keener sense of the degradation which is imposed upon their sex by disfranchisement.

"No woman can be guilty of greater folly than in attempting to suppress the knowledge of the facts of prostitution. No woman can show greater wisdom than in spreading them as widely as possible among her associates. The method of instruction must vary, of course, with the age of the pupil. But that instruction is imperatively necessary is the opinion of nine out of ten of the men and women who are acquainted with the facts.

"May I take this opportunity of drawing the attention of your readers to a book which has already been reviewed and praised in your columns? I mean Reginald Wright Kauffmann's 'Daughters of Iahmal,' which is incomparably the best book yet written upon the white slave traffic."

PRISONERS' HAMPER.

Mrs. Marshall acknowledges with many thanks, Miss Joachim, £1; Mrs. Rhuven Guest, cakes; Mrs. Downing, 5s.; Miss Hilda Sloane, £1 1s.; H. A. and L. G., 5s.

1,000 NEW READERS WANTED!

Week by week the roll of those who are devoting their energies to bringing the paper VOTES FOR WOMEN into the hands of new readers mounts steadily upward. The moment is one of extreme political importance, and the necessity of being thoroughly informed on the latest movement of the Government was never more apparent. There are still many people who do not understand what it is that the militants are fighting for, and to them, as well as to those who are as yet indifferent to the whole subject of women's enfranchisement, it is most important that the paper should be introduced. Names and addresses of new subscribers should be sent (not for publication) with postal order, to Mr. Pethick Lawrence, 4, Clements Inn. The terms are 3s. 3d. for six months, post free for the United Kingdom, 4s. 4d. for abroad.

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Miss Churchill	1	Mrs. Gephart	1
Mrs. Ditts	2		

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

In the course of a leading article on February 1, the *Daily Telegraph* said:—

As everyone knows, Mr. Asquith is one of the strongest opponents of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. He told one of the last deputations which he received on the subject that he thought it would be a "national disaster." He advised those who agreed with him to "take off their coats" and carry on a vigorous campaign in the country against a "gigantic experiment, for which there is no parallel in the history of any other country in Europe." There is no question, therefore, as to Mr. Asquith's real convictions. And yet to what is he pledged? He is pledged to the introduction of what is practically a Manhood Suffrage Bill which is to be so framed that it will admit of an amendment introducing Woman Suffrage, either on exactly the same terms as men, or on any other terms which Parliament may choose to lay down. An amendment conferring an equal political franchise on women will be moved. The Prime Minister will speak against it and vote against it. But if it be carried, as presumably it will, then it will be impossible for him to vote against the Third Reading of a Government Bill, and he will thus perforce have to accept and make himself responsible for what he believes to be "a national disaster."

Was there ever such a grotesque or such a humiliating position for the head of a Government? And not the least astounding feature of it all is that he has manoeuvred himself, of his own volition, into the unenviable place he occupies. It was the Prime Minister himself who surprised not merely his opponents, but also his friends and supporters, by making the first announcement of the Electoral Reform Bill, which is to sweep away the existing restrictions on the male franchise. That was entirely his own doing; yet it has added enormously to his personal difficulties and to the embarrassments of those in the Cabinet who share his views on this subject. What his motives were can only be conjectured. The Suffragists at once suspected that it was "a trick" against the cause, and were only partially consoled by the encouraging words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he told the members of a deputation "not to commit themselves too readily to the statement that this was a trick upon Woman Suffrage." It is now clear, from Mr. Lloyd George's remarks on that occasion, and from the way in which he took the platform at Bath, that in his view, Mr. Asquith and the anti-Suffragists in the Cabinet had delivered themselves over, hand and foot, to the Suffragists by the announcement as to the coming Electoral Reform Bill. Hence his exultation over the "torpedoing" of the Conciliation Bill, and over the near prospect of the enfranchisement of "several millions of women." Since then there has been silence on the part of Ministers in public, but every reason exists for the belief that a lively interchange of views has taken place in private and that feeling on both sides is running strong. The Cabinet is seriously at variance, and as there is obviously no method of reconciling views that are irreconcilable, either there will be a crash, or one side will have to give way to the other, or matters will drift on till the time comes for introducing the Bill. Whatever one's opinion as to the merits of Woman Suffrage, there cannot be two opinions as to the sorry plight of the Prime Minister. That he is not master in his own Cabinet was made perfectly clear from the recent speeches of Mr. Lloyd George and Sir Edward Grey.

It is impossible to conceive Mr. Gladstone in such a situation as that now occupied by Mr. Asquith. Either he would not have permitted the subject to be played with, or he would have allowed his convictions to suffer gradual change, until the psychological moment arrived for the proclamation of his full conversion. Mr. Asquith has not his predecessor's imperious command over his colleagues, and his convictions, at any rate on this point, are more obstinate. He has been searching about, therefore, for a middle course, but being unable to find one, has plunged recklessly on an Electoral Reform Bill, which, instead of adding a million women voters to the register, as the Conciliation Bill might have done, looks more like adding "several millions," and placing the newly enfranchised women voters in an actual majority the first time they exercise the franchise. Such is the result of tortuous dealing. There has been much talk of a Referendum on the subject. It has been as zealously advocated by a portion of the Ministerial Press as it has been decisively rejected by another. The Suffragists are furious at the suggestion, and, boldly raising their demands, are calling loudly for the withdrawal of the projected Electoral Reform Bill and the introduction of a Government measure that shall give men and women an equal franchise on equal terms. That Mr. Asquith would, on the whole, welcome a reference to the people may be gathered from his speech of December 14, for though he pointed out very cogently the arguments that may be urged against it, he repeated with emphasis that while he thought the Referendum "a most undesirable innovation as part of the regular Constitutional machinery, there were conceivable cases in which it might be properly employed." And more than once he has singled out the case of Woman Suffrage as an illustration, because it cuts across the ordinary party divisions. The whole question, therefore, is at sizes and sevens so far as Ministers are concerned, and the Prime Minister is in the most uncomfortable and discreditable position of all. He will be bound to declare himself soon, after he has met and either overcome or been overcome by his colleagues, and fill then, Unionists as a party may well be content to stand clear and wait. The Electoral Reform Bill has profoundly altered the whole situation. Until we know definitely what is to be done with that measure, everything is dark and confused.

OUR POST BOX.

THE WORD "OBEY."

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—When living in the Cloisters, I remember it was remarked, on the occasion of the wedding of a peer in Westminster Abbey, that the bride did not say the word "obey"—it was, I fancy, omitted purposely by the officiating clergyman. The incident was emphasised by the bridegroom insisting that his future wife should walk and stand throughout the ceremony on his right. Is the Archbishop of Canterbury prepared to say that the marriage was in consequence illegal, and all the children illegitimate?—Yours, etc.,

Overdale,
Parkstone.

S. A. TURLE.

To the Editor of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—In view of the account of the recent Suffragist wedding at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, it is desirable that the legality of the alteration or omission of parts of the Marriage Service should be widely known. It appears plain from the authorities that a literal repetition of the service is quite unnecessary. It appears from Littleton (one of the most eminent of our early lawyers) that a marriage is complete for civil purposes "after affiance and troth plighted between them." In the case of Harrod v. Harrod Wood, V.O., afterwards Lord Hatherley, stated the law thus:—"The (marriage) contract itself in its essence, independently of the religious element, is the consent on the part of the man and woman to cohabit with each other, and with each other only. . . . The religious element does not require anything more of the parties. . . . It has never been held that the repetition of words of the Marriage Service is necessary. . . . When the hands of the parties are joined together, and the clergyman pronounces them to be man and wife, they are married, if they understood by that that they have agreed to cohabit together, and with no other person."

Again, in the case of Beamish v. Beamish, Willes J. says:—"The want of a person to give away the bride is not visited by the Rubric, or by the general law, with any consequences. The omission of the giving of the ring and the subsequent part of the ceremony . . . may be considered, for civil purposes, non-essential."

The essential part of the service is the taking each the other for wedded wife and wedded husband. It may be interesting to quote in this connection Shepherd's "Service of the Church," where it is stated that "The reason assigned for the father giving away the daughter is that in ancient times the authority of the father was almost despotic, and the children were considered his property." Could any better reason for discontinuing the practice be asked for? It is impossible in a letter to give more than a few short extracts from a very large mass of material, but it seems that there should be no difficulty in omitting those parts of the service, the objections to which are obvious and unassailable.—Yours, etc.,

15, New Broad Street, A. P. SPANTON.
London, E.C.

QUESTIONS FOR ANTIS.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—Some little time ago I put three questions to Mrs. Humphry Ward concerning "Local Government and Anti-Suffrage," briefly:

1. How does Mrs. Ward as an Anti advocate the proposals of the Local Government Advancement Committee?
2. Why was a grant from the League's chest made to that committee, which supports any candidate, but preferably one of Anti-Suffrage opinions?
3. How do the officials of the League thus working with and against the Suffrage Party continue to say they are Anti-Suffragists?

I have never received an answer to any of my question, and I think if the public would only examine the actions of the Anti League and compare them with the name they could scarcely fail to see that far from being Anti-Suffrage it is, if I might say so, more of a Constitutional Suffrage Society than some claiming that title. The illogical position which Mrs. Humphry Ward takes up is not so apparent as one would believe, at least not to the educated ladies of the Anti League. I say educated ladies, because several of them said, "You see those ladies who have a great deal of leisure can take it (municipal work) up as a hobby." Yet women are so occupied as not to be able to take any interest in politics or affairs requiring close attention. Surprising, isn't it? I think that if you were to point out in VOTES FOR WOMEN how illogical the Anti League is over Local Government, a great many of your new readers would take up the cudgels and carry on the campaign against such nonsense as I find in the *Anti Review* now that Local Government is being pushed forward.—Yours, etc.,

HORACE G. DIPROSE
(Late Brixton Branch N.L.O.W.S.).

WORK AND WAGES.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—I think it possible that some of your readers may have seen my little pamphlet, "Votes and Wages," and I therefore ask your courtesy to allow me to make a correction in it. The reference on the first page to the Board of Trade Report on Hours and Earnings Enquiry, 1906, should be to the Select Committee on Home Work, 1907 (Miss MacArthur's evidence, p. 139, § 2,763). I have corrected the reference in my pamphlet, and have written at some length on the point at issue (the estimated average wage of women in England) to the *Standard*, so I will not trespass further on your space.—Yours, etc.,

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

From an open-air sanatorium near Lake Geneva comes one among many testimonies to the value of our paper. A patient who takes VOTES FOR WOMEN found the other ladies ready to learn about it and was asked to give a few lectures in the drawing-room. These were most eagerly listened to and the audience "clamoured for more."

PRESS EXTRACTS.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* on Saturday, February 3, under sub-titles which included: "Two Parties in the Cabinet," "How long will Mr. Asquith stand it?" wrote:—

The days of the Coalition Government are numbered. A few weeks ago the angers were bidding Ministers beware the Ides of March; to-day a more imminent danger threatens them in the Frosts of February.

The cloud, no bigger than a woman's hand, that heralded a depression which has since overspread the whole Ministerial host, has developed a chilly and paralysing atmosphere that has found its way into the innermost recesses of No. 10, Downing Street.

Its influence, writes our Parliamentary correspondent, was patent at yesterday's meeting of the Cabinet, which met in circumstances of embarrassment and restraint so marked, I am informed, as to produce a most uncomfortable impression of impending disaster in the minds of the lesser members of the Ministry.

For some time before this meeting the feeling had been growing, and was not concealed by anxious Ministers from their intimates, that the estrangement between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer has reached a point that threatens to split up the Cabinet into two distinct factions, and such a state of tension between the two most important members of the Cabinet makes it almost impossible for a coherent sessional programme to be put together with any hope of accomplishment.

Although the cause of difference is not comprehended in this programme, it is none the less potent for strife, and it may be that the divergence of view as to the expediency of the adoption of a Referendum on Woman Suffrage also expresses a general difference on several questions of public policy. At any rate, the position revealed yesterday is fairly open to that construction.

The Suffrage tangle, we understand, is remitted to a second and special Cabinet meeting next Tuesday. The result of that difficult discussion must profoundly affect all other considerations. There is no good issue to be found. If the Prime Minister, who thinks Women's Suffrage "disastrous," leaves the question of enfranchising 8,000,000 women to the chances of a division in the lobbies, he stakes his whole honour upon a gamble, as the *Daily Chronicle* has told him. If Ministers who have ridiculed the Referendum now tried to escape by the Referendum and put the matter to a vote, they would probably fall on that vote for reasons that we need not now indicate. If, on the other hand, a solution was attempted by shelving Mr. Lloyd George's larger and madder Suffrage policy, and trying to replace it by the Plural Voting Bill and the Conciliation Bill only, the Coalition as well as the Cabinet would split. In any case, Ministers are pledged to talk against each other on public platform, on one of the biggest issues ever raised in the democratic politics of any country. We repeat that from the Suffrage imbroglio none but a damaging exit is possible, and that this problem is bound to exert a stronger influence upon political destinies than is yet even remotely realised by most politicians.

The Observer, February 4.

The Referendum is a political principle with which you cannot play fast and loose. If it is good for one measure, it is good for all. We believe it to be wholly unsound, and only defensible when coupled with the initiative. Those who have advocated the Referendum in this country hitherto have only done so because they regard it as a means of defeating measures to which they are opposed.

—Nottingham Daily Express, January 31.

Several weeks ago we warned the friends of Woman Suffrage that a movement was on foot in high quarters to submit the principle of Woman Suffrage to the electors by means of a Referendum. Since then the truth of our statement has been proved, and it has become an open secret that Mr. Asquith and Mr. Winston Churchill are behind the proposal. But surely everyone who is honest with himself must recognise that however much may be said in favour of the principle of the Referendum, its application in this case is manifestly unjust. Are women to be denied the vote because the male electorate are opposed to their enfranchisement? As well say a native people shall never be allowed self-government until ruling aliens graciously permit it to them, or that the liberation of slaves ought not to have been carried through until their masters by Referendum vote concurred. We are convinced that sex inequality is as grave a wrong as either of these, and to propose that its abolition should depend upon the will of the dominant section of the community is equally unjust.

—The Labour Leader (Feb. 2).

There are few political questions which have recently attracted more attention than that of Women's Suffrage, and for good or ill a great deal more is likely to be heard before the question is finally settled.—*Church Family Newspaper (Special)*.

I have not said anything here of the captains of the militant Suffragists. But if the vote is won they will claim, and history has a knack of supporting such claims, that by their violence they alone did it. If, therefore, Mr. Lloyd George and Sir Edward Grey prove eventually to have taken the winning side it will be a fine advertisement—and many people will regard it even as a justification for violent methods of persuasion.

A. H. G. in the *Manchester Dispatch*, January 30.

The Woman Suffragist of England has been defined as a woman with a steady passion for being a nuisance. Of course that definition has been framed by a conventional gentleman of the other sex. But whether the politicians of England like them or not, Mrs. Pankhurst and her followers, titled and untitled, are in politics to stay.

A few years ago the Suffragists were a source of amusement to the male public and of annoyance to Cabinet Ministers. So successful has been their policy of violence and voluntary martyrdom that even their sternest critics have been forced to admire their pluck and earnestness and the apathy of the masses has changed into a decided interest in their campaign.

—*Windsor Telegram*.

SPEAKERS' CLASS.

Hon. Election Mistress—Miss Rosa Leo,
25, Ashworth Mansions, Eglon Avenue, W.
Hon. Secretary—Miss Hale, 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

The latest position of the movement will again be the subject for the next two classes. There will be no class on Friday, February 16, but it will take place as usual at Room 73, 4, Clements Inn, on February 23, at 7.45. Parliament will have met by that time and the new situation will be revealed. There will therefore be a great deal to discuss. Miss Leo's private classes take place every Saturday at 4 p.m., by kind permission of Mrs. Ayrton, at 41, Norfolk Square, W. It must be understood that both these classes are open to members of the W.S.P.U. only.

MEN'S POLITICAL UNION

For Women's Enfranchisement.

Offices—13, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

Telephone—City 6673.

Hon. Organising Sec.—Victor D. Duval.

Our brave young comrade MacDougal was due to be released from Pentonville Prison on Thursday, February 8, at 8.35 a.m. After so lengthy an incarceration it was arranged that he should go at once to the seaside to recoup his strength. The date of Mr. Ball's release will be published next week. Members prepared for militant work are requested to send in their names without delay to the honorary secretary.

Two boxes have been taken for the Albert Hall meeting on March 28; tickets can be obtained through a member, 2s. 6d. each. The Union has for sale a few tickets for the welcome dinner to W.S.P.U. prisoners at Connaught Rooms, Friday, February 16, 7.15 p.m., 6s. each. The following donations are gratefully acknowledged:—

Amount already acknowledged	£1,315 14 6
Fritz Solomon, Esq.	0 1 6
Roger B. Lawrence, Esq.	1 1 0
Miss Millicent Lawrence	2 2 0
Hugh A. Franklin, Esq.	1 1 0
The Misses Dempster	1 1 0
The Misses Beck	3 0 0
Entrance Fees	0 3 0
	£1,324 4 0

SOCIETY OF WOMEN MUSICIANS.

Ten years ago Miss Ethel Smyth embarked upon a String Quartet in E minor, and having written two movements, an Allegro tranquillo and an Allegro leggiero, laid it aside and left it unfinished. Most sincerely is it to be hoped, however, that the day will yet come when the spirit will move her to take it up again and to resume the uncompleted work, for the two very beautiful movements played at the first concert given under the auspices of the Society of Women Musicians, at the Small Queen's Hall last night, certainly whetted the appetite for more. For Miss Smyth is no mere music-maker; she writes because there is that within her which impels her to write and because she has something to say which is worth saying. Her music always bears the impress of a strong individuality, and these two movements are interesting, not merely because they are beautiful musically, but also because in them are expressed new ideas, which, whether they be grave or gay, serious or whimsical, always have the ring of truth.—*Daily Telegraph*.

WOMEN WRITERS.

The Women Writers' Suffrage League which announces its Matinée for February 9, at the New Princes Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, offers a programme which would appear to identify the interests of the Suffrage Cause with literary drama. Amongst the items, the Pageant of Shakespeare's Heroines is of exceptional attractiveness. Shakespeare is represented as asleep, and the heroines of his plays visit him in his dream, all speaking a few lines from their most famous speeches. Miss Marion Terry, for instance, who will appear as Portia, will speak the "Quality of Mercy."

THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

2, Robert Street, Strand, W.C. Telephone: City 111.
President—Mrs. Forbes Robertson.
Organising Secretary—Miss G. M. Conolan.

A performance of unusual interest will take place at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden Lane, on Tuesday, February 20, at 3 p.m., when two new one-act plays and a duologue will be presented by members of the Actresses' Franchise League. Tickets, 2s. (stalls) and 2s. (gallery), all unreserved, may be obtained at above address. Among those playing will be: Miss Adeline Bourne, Miss Blanche Stanley, Miss Winifred Mayo, Miss Mildred Orme, Miss Lucie Milner, Miss Annie Schletter, Miss Inez Bensusan, and many others. The plays all treat of the Suffrage question from different points of view, and are entitled respectively: "Brass and Clay" (Anonymous), "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky" (by Evelyn Glover), and "The Rack" (by Mrs. Harlow Philby). In spite of the bitter weather there was a good attendance at the Criterion meeting on Friday last. Mrs. B. S. Willard presided, and Miss Ada Moore opened the proceedings by singing "The Awakening." Mrs. Hylton Dale spoke of the urgent necessity for Municipal Lodging Houses for Women. Mr. Atherley Jones, in the course of a sympathetic and humorous speech, said that it was not his place to judge what had given such a tremendous impetus to Woman's Suffrage during the last few years, but he had noted that no great Constitutional change had even been effected but by the fear if not the actuality of physical force. The Rev. Hugh Chapman stated his conviction that the movement would never have occupied its present position but for the enthusiasm for work shown by those in the forefront, and for their willingness to suffer for their ideals.

CLERKS' W.S.P.U.

Hon. Secs.—Miss Phyllis Ayrton, 62, Edith Road, West Kensington; Miss Cynthia Maguire, 18, Carlton Vale, Maida Vale, N.W.

A members' meeting will be held next week to make final arrangements for the Jubilee Sale. Parcels may be sent to Miss Casserley, 347, Goswell Road, E.C., and marked "Clerks' W.S.P.U." Articles of all kinds—fancy or useful—will be acceptable; nothing will be refused!

SELLING A WIFE.

How lightly some men think of women was illustrated at the Central Criminal Court on Saturday, January 13. The case concerned the theft of rings, and the prosecutor is reported to have said that the defendant was introduced to the jeweller by a woman who had been purchased from her husband for the sum of £5!

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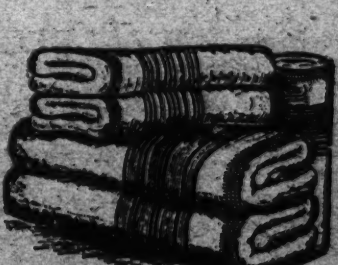
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W.S.P.U. General Offices: 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C.

BARNET.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Sue Watt, 15, Stratford Road.
The secretary will be glad to have offers of drawing-rooms for At Home during March and April. Volunteers for the next militant demonstration are urgently needed. Names to be sent to the secretary.

BOWNE PARK AND DISTRICT.

Hon. Organiser—Miss H. Gargett, 4, Stenard Rd., Palmer's Green.
Members must make an effort to bring people to the Tuesday evening informal meetings (see programme). Cards for distribution can be had from the organiser. The Cake and Candy Sale is fixed for Saturday, February 24. Will members and friends please say how much they will contribute? Small articles for bazaar are also wanted. Paper sellers are needed for Palmer's Green Station, and for open air meetings.

CHICHESTER AND KENSAL TOWN.

Shop and Office—50, King's Road.
Hon. Sec.—Miss Haig and Miss Blacklock.
Mrs. Tomlin's At Home was a great success. Miss Joachim was in the chair and Mrs. Brailsford made a most impressive speech. Miss Eva Moore gave two delightful recitations, and drew attention to the militant side of the question. Mrs. Grantham kindly promised to give a drawing-room meeting. Miss Taylor addressed a large crowd in Sloane Square on Thursday. Members are asked to support these mid-day meetings. Many things are still needed for next Tuesday's Jumble Sale. Many thanks to Mrs. Hall for volunteering to mind the office during dinner-hour on Mondays.

CROYDON.

Office—50, High Street. Tel. 980 Croydon (Nat.).
Hon. Sec.—Miss L. Green. Shop Sec.—Miss L. Hall.
The first At Home at 50, High Street was a great success. Mrs. Russell took the chair, and Miss M. Thompson gave a most interesting address. Many thanks to Miss Mills for kindly organising the tea. A speakers' class is being arranged. Those wishing to join, and it is hoped there will be many, should apply to Mrs. Russell, Pondover, Bechtam Park, Purley. Various garments for the Plain Work Stall have been put out and can be obtained from the Shop. Those not caring for needlework are asked to help to make roses for decoration. Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Slade are kindly organising a Whist Drive to take place on Saturday, February 17, in aid of the Shop Fund; tickets, 1s. each. Gratefully acknowledged:—Miss Linton, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Slade, 3s. 3d.; Miss Walter and Miss Cockledge, 10s.

EALING.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Finlay, 25, Warwick Road.
Mrs. Fraser Forbes, 12, Argyle Road.
A public meeting will be held in the Oak Room, Cinematograph Theatre, Ealing Broadway, on Monday, February 19, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Atherley Jones, Esq., K.O., M.P.; Miss Georgina Brackenbury, J. Y. Kennedy, Esq., Chair; the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield. Admission free; a few reserved seats at 1s. Members are urgently requested to advertise the public meeting as much as possible, distributing handbills, chalking, &c.; also to send in their names for a special Poster Parade, to take place on Saturday, February 17. It will start from 35, Warwick Road at 11 a.m. Stewards are also wanted for the meeting. The committee regret that Miss Doe has been obliged to resign the Literature Secretaryship, as she is leaving the neighbourhood. Miss Crocker, 10, Vaux Women sec., has kindly taken it over. Gratefully acknowledged: Miss Constance Wallace-Dunlop, 5s.

FULHAM AND PUTNEY.

Shop—70, Fulham Road.
Hon. Sec.—Miss L. Ogden and Mrs. Roberts.
The treasurer has to remind members that the half-quarter's rent is due next week, and it is hoped that those who have guaranteed weekly subscriptions will forward them as soon as possible. More helpers are wanted for open-air meetings.

HAMMERSMITH.

Hon. Sec. (pro tem)—Miss Carson, 40, Melrose Road.
The members' meeting will be held on Monday next, on account of the L.P. Albert Hall meeting. A few tickets for this are still unsold. Tickets are now ready for the At Home on Feb. 17, for which an excellent programme has been provided. Will members please help to make Mrs. Rowe's welcome a great success? More paper-sellers are required.

HAMPSTEAD.

Shop and Office—175, Finchley Road.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Hicks and Miss C. Gellier.
Invitations for the At Home, February 16, can be had at the office. Mrs. A. J. Webb has promised to speak on the "White Slave Trade" (see programme). Mrs. Henry Holiday is kindly giving a drawing-room meeting on February 29, at which Mrs. Cecil Chapman and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson will speak on "Tax Resistance." Gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. L. Edwards, 21 6s.

HARROW.

Hon. Sec.—Miss L. Graham Higgins, West View, Longley Road, West Harrow.
A successful meeting was held in Gayton Rooms, Harrow, on January 29, the speakers were Lady Stont, Rev. Hugh Chapman, and Councillor Grimwood. Miss Brackenbury very kindly took the chair in the absence of Mrs. Penn Gaskell through illness. New members were added and the meeting was well reported in the local papers. The secretary will be pleased to hear from members or friends willing to give drawing-room meetings. Gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. Farrar, 2s.; promises of monthly subscriptions from Mrs. Farrar, Mrs. Brimston, and Mrs. Bonham; Mrs. Lydyard, 6s.

HENDON AND GOLDSBORO GREEN.

Shop and Office—20th, The Parade, Goldsboro Green.
Hon. Org. Sec.—Mrs. Wyatt, Derby House, Hendon.
A very successful members' meeting was held last Thursday, when Dr. Fairchild's most interesting speech was much appreciated. Members are urged to push the sale of tickets for next Thursday's meeting (see programme).

ILFORD.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Haslam, 65, Cranbrook Road.
Miss Wingrove spoke at Manor Park, on Wednesday, and papers were sold out. None but Suffragettes could have held an open-air meeting on Saturday; but after two hours the audience still wanted Miss Taylor to continue.

ISLINGTON.

Office—37, Goswell Road, E.C. Hon. Sec.—Miss R. H. Gansley.
It is hoped that all Canonbury members will be present at the first indoor meeting this evening (see programme). As Miss Hardy is about to leave North London, it is hoped that others will come forward to take her place at Holloway Road paper pitch. Volunteers are asked to communicate with the secretary, or call at the office, which is always open on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

KENSINGTON.

Shop and Office—113, Church Street, Kensington, W. Tel. 2116 Western. Hon. Sec.—Miss Evelyn Shires.
A successful At Home was kindly given by Mrs. Philip Smith, at which Dr. L. Garrett Anderson spoke. Two poster parades were held in the snow, headed by

Miss M. Brackenbury with the colours, to advertise the Holloway Road meeting, for which also much canvassing and bill-distributing has been done. While congratulations are due to the gallant few who have sold papers and done outdoor work in the severe weather, it is a matter of regret that more Kensington members, especially those who are younger, do not come forward to help. Miss Postlethwaite is always at the Shop to take names, and other members of committee can be seen by appointment. A few entries can still be made to the bridge tournament to be held to-day (Friday; see programme). A good stock of modern books, including "A Guide to the Insurance Act," the new Englishwoman's Year Book, etc., now on sale at the Shop. Mrs. Gommersall and Miss Doris Sparrow are welcomed as new members. Acknowledged with thanks:—Lady Home, 21; Mrs. Morrison, 10s.; Miss Gladys Head, 2s. 6d.

LEWISHAM.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Christina Campbell, Miss C. Townsand. Office—24, Barlin Road, Catford.
Acknowledged with grateful thanks: Miss Balfour (Kensington), 23 7s.; Mrs. Henderson, 6s.; Mrs. Parks, 6s.; Mr. W. Parks, 6s., towards office rent fund. Arrangements are being made for the opening of an office near the Obelisk. Details will be announced later. Meanwhile will intending subscribers please send along their promises of support, so that a good start may be made with the reopening of Parliament?

NORTH ISLINGTON AND HORNSEY.

Office—13, St. Thomas Road, Finsbury Park.
Hon. Sec.—Miss Constance Bryer, 45, Tufnell Park.
Thanks to the Misses Darton and Jolly for the way they have worked to make the office habitable, and for their gifts of table, curtains and various small things, to Miss Hume for her promise of oil stove, and to Miss Jackson for her generous promise of 1s. per week towards office rent. Will others promise the same amount? Two tables, chairs, and many other requisites are urgently needed. A lending library is contemplated and books will be welcomed. The opening of the new office takes place on February 12 (see programme). All members and friends will be warmly welcomed.

N.W. LONDON.

Office—218, High Road, Kilburn. Tel. 1122, Hampstead. Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Penn Gaskell.
By kind invitation of Mrs. Roper, a large mothers' meeting was addressed at Unity Hall, Quex Road, on January 29, when Mrs. Dilks most kindly, at the last moment, took the place of Mrs. Penn Gaskell, who was laid up. There are several important meetings being arranged. Will members give all the help they can?

PADDDINGTON AND MARYLEBONE.

Shop and Office—41, Fread Street, W.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Haverfield.
A most successful meeting was held at the Town Hall on January 31. Mr. Atherley Jones, K.O., M.P., and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence were the speakers. Mrs. Haverfield read from the chair a letter from Mr. A. Strauss, M.P. for North Paddington, expressing his sympathy with the movement. The hall was crowded and the sum of 25 7s. 6d. was taken in tickets and collection. Members are urgently requested to look out their old clothes for to-morrow's Jumble Sale.

RADLETT.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. White, Gravelly.
The large audience at the Parish Hall, on January 30, were fortunate in hearing Mr. Joseph Clayton. He had kindly consented, at a few hours' notice, to take the place of Mr. Atherley Jones, who found himself unable to fulfil his engagement. Special thanks to Miss Lea and Miss Babin for their successful arrangements at the hall, and to Miss Horrocks for her valuable assistance in preparing out of the illustrated posters. Will members please make a special effort to find new regular readers for the paper among these newly interested?

RYDENHAM.

Hon. Sec.—Miss A. Folland, Burghill Road, Rydenham.
Members are asked to do all they can to advertise next Wednesday's meeting (see programme) and to distribute the tickets which are now ready.

UXBRIDGE & DISTRICT.

Organiser—Miss Givens, Winchester Lodge, Cowley Hill Road.
A campaign has been started at Uxbridge, and members are asked to give as much help as possible. Several ladies have already promised to lend their drawing-rooms for meetings, and outdoor meetings are being arranged. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will speak in the Town Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 28. Miss Givens would be glad if members having friends in Uxbridge would give her introductions to them.

WALLINGTON.

By kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Parritt, of Hill-side Gardens, a drawing-room meeting was held on Friday evening, February 2, when Miss Wilford, of Kensington, gave an address on "The State in Relation to the Home." This was followed by an animated and interesting discussion.

WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—Miss D. M. Hooper, Old Manor Farm, Squirrels Heath, Essex.
Members are asked to keep Saturday, March 23, free for a Whist Drive at Plaietow School of Music. They are also asked to begin selling tickets (1s. 6d. each) at once. Poster parades to advertise indoor meetings are now being organised. Night members have already volunteered, but more will be welcome. The new paper pitch is a great success. A drawing-room for a meeting is still urgently wanted between now and February 15.

WIMBLEDON.

Shop—2, Victoria Crescent, Broadway. Tel. 1032, P.O. Wimbledon. Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Lamartine Yates, Dorset Hall, Marton, Surrey.
The Prisoners' Commemoration Dinner proved a great success. The joy of reunion reached its height when Mary Leigh joined the party. The ceremony won many new members and associates, and was well reported in the local Press. Special thanks to Mrs. Belmont, Miss Haddon, and other members of her staff, to Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Batley, Mrs. Bagbie and Miss Simms, and others who so splendidly provided the refreshments, and also to those who volunteered as waitresses, and to Mr. Priston for his generous assistance in every department. Once more Mr. and Mrs. Janau made and presented the decorated menu cards. Members and friends are invited to tea on Wednesday next (see programme). Mrs. Lamartine Yates will be glad to know how many can be present.

WIMBLEDON PARK AND S. WIMBLEDON.
Hon. Sec.—Miss Allan, 75, Woodside, Wimbledon. Tel. 1037 P.O.

Will members please note that members' meetings are for themselves only? Friends and sympathisers are cordially invited to the At Homes. Heartiest thanks to those whose unflagging energy has been so helpful in connection with the Masonic Hall Entertainment on February 8. Albert Hall tickets, 1s. and 6d., should be secured as soon as possible. The generous donation of stationery acknowledged last week was from C. Dacre Fox, Esq.

Home Counties.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.

Shop—20, Station Road. Organiser—Miss D. A. Bowker. Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Holden, 15, Eversley Road.
It has been arranged that the meeting on February 20 shall be an afternoon one, so as to enable people who cannot be out in the evening to attend. Handbills advertising the meeting can be obtained at the shop. Gratefully acknowledged: Miss Bishop, 2s. 6d.; 5s. previously acknowledged should have been in Miss Young's name.

POLITICAL EQUALITY.

NO FRANCHISE BILL WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE WOMEN!

"That this Conference, in harmony with its previous decisions, is of the opinion that the enfranchisement of all adult men and women should be included in the Reform Bill to be introduced by the Government in the coming Session of Parliament; it further requests the Labour Party in Parliament to make it clear that no Bill can be acceptable to the Labour and Socialist Movement which does not include women."

—Resolution passed by the Conference of the Labour Party, Birmingham, January 27, 1912.

DEMONSTRATION TO DEMAND ADULT SUFFRAGE

WILL BE HELD AT THE

ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LONDON

(MANAGER—HILTON CARTER).

Under the Auspices of the Labour Party, the Independent Labour Party, and the Fabian Society,

ON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13th, 1912.

SPEAKERS:

WILL CROOKS, M.P.
J. KEIR HARDIE, M.P.
ARTHUR HENDERSON, M.P.

PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P.
Mrs. DESPARD
Miss MARY R. MACARTHUR

Miss MILLICENT MURBY
WM. C. ANDERSON
(Chairman of the Independent Labour Party)

Doors open at 7 p.m.

Chair to be taken at 8 p.m. prompt by J. RAMSAY MacDONALD, M.P. (Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party).

SUPPORTED BY

GEORGE N. BARNES, M.P.
WILLIAM BRACE, M.P.
J. R. CLYNES, M.P.
CHARLES DUNCAN, M.P.
F. W. GOLDSTONE, M.P.

JOHN HODGE, M.P.
WALTER HUDSON, M.P.
J. O'GRADY, M.P.
J. PARKER, M.P.
J. POINTER, M.P.
T. RICHARDS, M.P.

T. RICHARDSON, M.P.
ALBERT SMITH, M.P.
J. E. SUTTON, M.P.
JOHN W. TAYLOR, M.P.
J. H. THOMAS, M.P.
STEPHEN WALSH, M.P.

GEO. J. WARDLE, M.P.
ALEXANDER WILKIE, M.P.
JOHN WILLIAMS, M.P.
W. TYSON WILSON, M.P.
And others.

Reserved and Numbered Seats in Boxes, 5/-; 2/6; 2/-

Arena, 1/-

Stalls, 2/- and 1/-

Reserved Seats, 6d.

Tickets Free to Gallery (Promenade) on application.

Tickets to be obtained by Members only from the Offices of the Independent Labour Party, St. Bride's House, Salisbury Square, E.C.4; The Fabian Society, 3, Clements Inn, Strand; The Labour Party, 20, Victoria Street, E.W.1; and all Branches of the Three Organizations. All tickets must be purchased before night of meeting.

BOURNEMOUTH.
Office—221, Old Christchurch Road.
Hon. Sec.—Miss E. Barry.
See below for to-morrow's At Home. Songs will be sung by Miss Winifred Siddons, recitations by Miss Ponblanc, and palmistry by Mrs. P. Shaw. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will speak at St. Peter's Hall, Hinton Road, Bournemouth, on Thursday, February 23, at 8 p.m. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Saul Solomon. Tickets are now on sale at the office. Gratefully acknowledged: Miss Nickoll, £1 2s. 6d.; Mrs. J. C. Pollock, 5s.; Mrs. A. Salvi, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Lyman, 10s.; Miss Barwick, 1s.
Sat., Feb. 10.—St. Margaret's, Pine Tree Glen, Westbourne. Hostesses: Miss Bateman and Miss Beyerhaus, 4 p.m.

CANTERBURY AND SOUTH KENT.
Organiser—Miss F. E. M. Macaulay, Trevan, 30, Bouverie Road West, Folkestone.

Friday evening, March 8, has been fixed on as the date for Miss Christabel Pankhurst's meeting at the Town Hall, Dover. Lady Brassey has very kindly consented to take the chair. Further particulars will appear in next week's issue. Dover Suffragists are earnestly asked to make the date of the meeting as widely known as possible among their friends. The organiser regrets that, during the pressure of work at the time of the last, acknowledgements of some of the donations were omitted. Many thanks to Mrs. Smart for the beautiful set of lace handkerchiefs, and to Mrs. and Miss Colman for their welcome gifts. Canterbury friends are reminded of Mrs. Tomkins' tea party and meeting next Monday afternoon. It is hoped that every one who possibly can will attend, and also bring as many friends as possible. Miss Ritchie, Jockin, Dover, will be glad to hear of anyone in Dover wishing to go, as she wishes to make up a party and charter a motor-coach, which would pick up people at their houses and take them back again. Many thanks to Miss Ritchie for her successful drawing-room meeting, at which much interest in the present political situation was evinced. The organiser will be glad to hear of other ladies who will kindly arrange drawing-room meetings for this purpose.
Mon., Feb. 12.—Canterbury, County Hotel. Hostess: Mrs. Tomkins. Speaker, Miss Josephine, 3 p.m.

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS.
Organiser—Miss D. A. Bowler. Shop—8, Trinity Street, Hastings.

There were several strange faces at the At Home when Mrs. Cather gave a stirring address; it is hoped that those who were there will bring others next Monday to hear Mrs. May Wright Sewall. Many thanks to Miss Thomas, to whose able management a splendid profit has been made on the weekly tea. Will all those who have promised to help at the Jumble Sale to-morrow (Saturday afternoon), be at the hall not later than 2.30. Gratefully acknowledged: Miss N. MacMunn, 10s.; Miss Beatrice Harraden, 5s.; Mrs. Harrison, £1.
Sat., Feb. 10.—Rainbow Hall, Silverhill, Jumble Sale, 3 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 12.—Hastings, 8, Trinity Street, At Home, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, 4 to 6 p.m.

KNEBWORTH.
Hon. Sec.—Miss Avery, The School House.
Hon. Treas.—Mrs. Wilson, The Caxtons.
Fri., Feb. 9.—The Mission Room, the Rev. John Ivory Cripps and others, 7.30 p.m.

OXFORD.
Hon. Sec.—Miss Graham, 27, Norham Road.
Many thanks to Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Kerry for their very successful drawing-room meetings at which Miss Hughes was the speaker. New members joined. Miss Hughes spoke at a meeting in the Headington County Council School, organised by Mrs. Charles Cole, on Wednesday, January 31. Miss Hughes, 2, Kingston Road, gratefully acknowledges the following donations: Miss Pole, 5s.; Miss Frapp, 10s.; Mrs. C. Cole, 5s.; Collections, 12s.
Sat., Feb. 10.—Mrs. Richards, At Home.
Mon., Feb. 12.—Miss Stotson, At Home.

PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTHAMPTON.
Organiser—Miss C. A. L. Marsh, 4, Pelham Road, Portsmouth.

Portsmouth members are urged to push the sale of tickets (price 1s. 6d. and 1s.) for the entertainment (see below). Unsold tickets must be returned at Wednesday's members' meeting. Southampton members are holding a whist drive in Grosvenor Café on Tuesday, February 20. Tickets (1s. 6d.) can be had from Miss Cumberland, Naini Tal, College Place. Mrs. Bickley

holds a weekly election class at Hodges', Above Bar. Mrs. Bickley has generously promised to give the fees to the local funds. Names of volunteers for the next protest and contributions are needed, and should be sent to the organiser at above address. Gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. Hewitt, 1s.; Mrs. Harding, £1 1s. Fri., Feb. 9.—Southampton, at Hodges', Above Bar, Election Class, 7 to 8 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Southampton, 32, Wilton Avenue, Sewing Meeting. Hostess: Mrs. Shaw, 3.30 p.m. Portsmouth, 4, Pelham Road, 5.45 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 16.—Portsmouth, Green Row Rooms, Pembroke Road, W.S.P.U. Entertainment, 8 p.m.

REDHILL.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Cather, The Red Cottage, Cavendish Road.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Carlton Room, Mrs. Richmond, 8 p.m.

ST. ALBANS.
A drawing-room meeting was held on January 31, at "Glenfower," Blenheim Road, by invitation of Mrs. and Miss Tudor, with the help of Mrs. Dewee and Mrs. Elworthy. Mrs. Hicks made a forcible speech. The chair was taken by N. Hodgson Esq., M.A. Several questions were asked by the audience, which was composed almost entirely of non-members. New members were made, and several copies of the paper were sold.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
Office—11, Ye Pantyles.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Harrison, Miss Walton.
The Suffrage debate on Friday last affords wonderful evidence of the strides which the women's movement is making, even in this stronghold of the Antis. The speeches of Miss Helen Ogden and Mr. Joseph Clayton were most impressive, and were resultant of immediate good. The following new members are cordially welcomed: Miss Briggs, Mrs. Collings, Mrs. Clarke, Miss Clarke, Miss Bailey, and Miss Baldoek. Mrs. Harrison is regretfully resigning the secretaryship of the local union. Friends and inquirers are reminded that Suffrage literature, &c., can be obtained at the office.
Friday, Feb. 9.—Members' Meeting, at 3 p.m.

WEST AND NORTH KENT.
Organiser—Miss Evelyn Billing, 120, Rock Avenue, Gillingham.

Members are urged to work hard to bring others to next Monday's meeting (see below); admission 1s., 6d., and 3d. Thanks to Mrs. Robinson (Sittingbourne) for holding a members' rally at her house on Tuesday last. Will members kindly return books borrowed from the organiser's library?
Fri., Feb. 9.—Gillingham, 120, Rock Avenue, Poster Parade, 7.15 p.m.; King Street, Meeting, 8 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 10.—Gillingham, 120, Rock Avenue, Poster Parade, 7.15 p.m.; King Street, Meeting, 8 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 12.—Masonic Hall, Balmoral Road, Miss Hicks, M.A., Mrs. Cather. Chair: Mrs. Packman, 8 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Gillingham, 120, Rock Avenue, Important Members' Meeting, 7 p.m.

The Midlands.
BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.
Office—97, John Bright Street. Tel., 1443 Midland.
Organisers—Miss Dorothy Evans and Miss Gladys Hazel.

Sun., Feb. 11.—Stirchley, Labour Church, Miss Dorothy Evans, 6.30 p.m. Salfrey, Henesage Street Brotherhood, Miss Gladys Hazel.
Tues., Feb. 13.—Erdington, Anstey College Gymnasium, Dramatic Club plays, 8 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Birmingham, Queen's College, Mrs. Davis, Miss Mabel Browne, 8 p.m.

COVENTRY.
Office—33, Earl Street. Organiser—Miss Markwick.
A most successful meeting was held at the Trocadero Restaurant, Leamington, on February 1. Miss Marsh in her address told the members of her prison experiences and many were greatly moved. Miss Bull is to be congratulated on the attendance.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Rugby, Market Place. Miss Markwick, 7.30 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 15.—Leamington, Trocadero Restaurant. Mrs. Penn Gaskell, 7.30 p.m.

EVESHAM.
Organiser—Miss Dorothy Evans, 1, Windsor Road.
Fri., Feb. 9.—Town Hall, Mrs. Brailsford. Chair: Mr. A. L. King, 8 p.m.

LONDON MEETINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK.

February.					
Friday, 9	Chelms, Manor Street	Miss Naylor	8.30 p.m.		
" "	4, Clements Inn, W.C.	Speakers' Class, Miss Rosa Leo	7.45 p.m.		
" "	Croydon, Greyhound Hotel Concert Room				
" "	Hackney, Baths, Lower Clapton Rd.	Dance	7.30 p.m.		
" "	Harrow Rd., Prince of Wales (outside)	Mrs. Hylton Dale	8 p.m.		
" "	Islington, Mornington Hall	Miss M. Wright, Miss Auerbach	8 p.m.		
" "	Kingston, 2, Campden Hill Sq., W.	Miss Thompson. Chair: Miss Bain.	8.15 p.m.		
" "	Kilburn, Messina Avenue	Bridge Tournament	8.45 p.m.		
" "	New Barnet, The Triangle	Miss Startup, Miss Jacobs	8 p.m.		
" "	North Green, Shorrod's Road	Miss Heathley	8 p.m.		
Saturday, 10	Fulham, Munster Road	Miss Richard	8 p.m.		
" "	Harlesden, Manor Park Road	Miss Alice Wright, Miss Wilson	8 p.m.		
" "	Ilford, Balfour Road	Miss Rogers	8 p.m.		
" "	Kilburn, Birchington Road	Miss Feek, Miss Meakin	8 p.m.		
" "	Paddington, Shop	Jumble Sale	4 p.m.		
" "	Palmer's Green, Alderman's Hill	Miss Bonwick, B.A. Chair: Miss Hilda Gargett	7 p.m.		
" "	Stoke Newington, Amherst Hall, Rectory Road	Dance and Whist Drive	7 p.m.		
" "	Walthamstow, Church Hill	Mrs. Bouvier	7.30 p.m.		
" "	Wimbledon Broadway	Miss Naylor	8 p.m.		
Sunday, 11	Wimbledon Common	Miss Feek. Chair: Mrs. Hutt	3 p.m.		
Monday, 12	Bromley, N.W.	Miss Elia Myers, Miss Startup	8 p.m.		
" "	Croydon, 50, High Street	Miss Elliott. Chair: Mrs. Reeder	8 p.m.		
" "	Finbury Park, N., 19, St. Thomas's Road				
" "	Hendon, Derby House	Office Opening, Miss Bonwick, B.A.	7.30 p.m.		
" "	Kensal Rise, Harvist Road Schools	Working Women, Mrs. A. J. Webb	3 p.m.		
" "	London, Pavilion, Piccadilly Circus, W.	Miss Wilson, Mrs. Gibbs	7 p.m.		
Tuesday, 13	Chelms, 308, King's Road	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mrs. Brailsford, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, L.L.B.	3.15 p.m.		
" "	Hampstead, 178, Finchley Road	Jumble Sale	3 to 5 p.m.		
" "	Nufford Place, Edware Road, W.	Committee Meeting	5.30 p.m.		
" "	Palmer's Green, The Mission Hall, Hazelwood Lane	Working Party	3 to 5 p.m.		
Wednesday, 14	Clapton, Powerscroft Road, N.E.	Fire-side Talks on "Woman and Her Sphere in Modern Life"	8 p.m.		
" "	Croydon, 50, High Street	Miss Hopkins	8 p.m.		
" "	Kilburn, W. 7, Argyle Road	Working Party	2.30 p.m.		
" "	Hampstead, The Library, Prince Arthur Road	Committee Meeting	8 p.m.		
" "	Ilford, Manor Park, Earl of Essex	Mrs. A. J. Webb	4 p.m.		
" "	Lavender Hill, Gild Hall, Junction Cedars Road and Queen's Road	Mrs. Bowden Smith	8 p.m.		
" "	Paddington, 52, Praed Street, W.	Mrs. Brailsford, The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield	8.15 p.m.		
" "	Sydenham, Verner Road Studio	Mrs. Portwee, Miss Winifred Mayo. Chair: Miss Edith Downing	8 p.m.		
" "	Wimbledon, 9, Victoria Crescent, Broadway	Members' Tea	4.30 p.m.		
Thursday, 15	Chelms, 308, King's Road	Members' Tea	12.15 p.m.		
" "	Croydon, Katherine Street	The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, Mr. Atherton Jones, K.C., M.P. Chair: Miss Wynne	8 p.m.		
" "	Hendon, Council Offices	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Leanne Hall, Mrs. Russell	8 p.m.		
" "	Stamway Hall, Lower Seymour Street, Portman Square, W.	Dinner. Welcome to Prisoners. Chair: Mrs. Pankhurst	7.15 p.m.		
Friday, 16	Connaught Rooms, Kingsway	Miss Gibbs, Miss H. Inglis	8 p.m.		
" "	Croydon, Katherine Street	Members' Debate	8 p.m.		
" "	Hackney, Baths, Lower Clapton Road, N.E.	Miss Jacobs, Mrs. Cook	8 p.m.		
" "	Harrow Road, Prince of Wales				

N.B.—A Mass Meeting will be held at the Albert Hall on Thursday, March 29. For particulars see page 295.



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NORTHAMPTON.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Miller, 395, Wellington Road.
A very successful drawing-room meeting was given by Mrs. Fred Crockett on January 29. Mrs. Portwee was the speaker. The organiser will be glad to hear from other ladies willing to give a drawing-room meeting. All members are specially asked to help in distributing handbills and paper-selling to-morrow, Saturday morning. Chalking must be done all over the town to-night, Friday. Stewards are particularly asked to be at the theatre in good time.
Sat., Feb. 10.—Palace Theatre, Gold Street, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, L.L.B., 8 p.m.

NOTTINGHAM.

Office—6, Carlton Street, Tel., 3511.
Organisers—Miss Roberts and Miss Crocker.
Will members please secure Whist Drive tickets, price 1s. 6d. (see below), at once, and also get others to buy? Refreshments are also needed. Please send promises to Miss Burgess, 21, Chance Street. Tickets can be secured from the sec. or at the Shop. Mrs. Pankhurst will speak in Lincoln on Wednesday next (see below). Will members send names of friends in or around Lincoln who would attend the meeting or help to sell tickets? Reserved and numbered seats 1s., unreserved 6d. and 3d., can be obtained at Messrs. Ruddock and Sons, stationers, Lincoln, or of the organisers at 3, Yarborough Road, West Parade, Lincoln. Stewards are needed for the meeting. Who will volunteer? Several additional shopkeepers are needed.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Lincoln, Corn Exchange, Mrs. Pankhurst, 8 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 16.—Nottingham, 75 and 76, Mechanics' Institute, Whist Drive, 7 p.m.

SHROPSHIRE.

Organiser—Miss Bartha Ryland, 51, Belle Vue Road, Shrewsbury.
Tickets (price 2s. 6d., 1s. and 6d.) for Mrs. Pankhurst's meeting, on February 23, can now be obtained from Miss Clarke, 13, Belmont, also from Messrs. Livesey, Ltd., St. John's Hill, where the plan of reserved seats may be seen.

WALSALL.

Shop and Office—10, Leicester Street.
Hon. Organiser—Miss F. Ward.
Canvassing is being vigorously carried on, and the Thursday meetings are being anticipated with keen interest. It is hoped that all members will begin to collect for a Jumble Sale to be held on March 22. Mrs. Thacker, Field House, Buchanan Road, has kindly lent her drawing-room for Mrs. Kineton-Parkes' meeting on Feb. 22. Will all members do their best to make this interesting meeting a great success. A meeting is arranged in Small Temperance Hall same evening for convenience of those unable to attend in the afternoon.
Thurs., Feb. 15.—Co-op. room, Mrs. Burman, 3 p.m.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

Organiser—Miss Gladys Hazel, c/o Mrs. Boswell, Albert Road.
Hon. Sec.—Miss Helen Boswell, 117, Dunstall Road.
Members have given proof of their devotion by the perseverance with which they have canvassed their districts in their free time. The advantage of canvassing is that propaganda work can be done at the same time; but every bit of help is needed. Volunteers are also wanted for the poster parade and for bill distributing. Tickets, 2s. and 1s. numbered and reserved, 6d. unnumbered, can be obtained from above address or from Barker's, Queen's Square.
Mon., Feb. 12.—Baths Assembly Rooms, Mrs. Pankhurst. Chair: Miss Dorothy Evans, 8 p.m.

West of England.

BATH.
Shop—12, Walcot St. Hon. Organiser—Mrs. Kassel.
Hon. Sec.—The Misses Tollenbach.
At the members' rally on Saturday, February 17, there will be five minutes' speeches by members dealing with anti-suffrage objections. Members may bring friends, thanks to Miss Douglas Smith for her interesting speech, and to Mr. Jendwine for coming out on a bitter evening to take the chair for the weekly meeting. Members are specially asked to bring their

men friends to hear Mr. Ramsay to-night (Friday). Some delicious marmalade has been made by Mrs. Davis for the shop.
Fri., Feb. 9.—Guildhall, the Rev. Geoffrey Ramsay. Chair: Mrs. Knight, 8 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 10.—Shop, members' rally, 5.30 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 16.—Guildhall, 8 p.m.

BRISTOL.

Office—37, Queen's Road, Clifton. Tel., 1351.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Dora Wilcox. Hon. Treas.—Mrs. Young.

Mrs. Price, of Letchworth, was the speaker at the last weekly At Home. A large open air meeting was held in Mr. Hobhouse's constituency, and a dinner hour meeting at the Dockgates, Avonmouth. Mrs. Price addressed both. A large number of dockers attended and evinced much interest. Mrs. Pankhurst will speak at the Victoria Rooms on Tuesday, February 27. Will members do their utmost to sell tickets and get a good meeting? Don't forget the performance of "How the Vote Was Won" on February 13.
Mon., Feb. 12.—Victoria Rooms. At Home, 3.30 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 13.—Victoria Rooms. Dramatic performance of "How the Vote Was Won," 8 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 15.—Kingsley Hall, Old Market Street. Free meeting. Mrs. Curtis, 8.15 p.m.

FALMOUTH AND PENRYN.

Hon. Organiser—Mrs. F. Corbett, The Bungalow.
Hon. Joint Secs.—Mrs. Pascoe, Mrs. English.
Members attended Mrs. Pascoe's At Home on Thursday, February 1, where they discussed plans for furthering the sale of Votes for Women and the coming jumble sale. The £10 referred to last week has now been allocated as follows: Penzance, £4;

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Devon. £2; Newquay, £2; and Falmouth and Penryn, £2. The organiser and members are glad to welcome Mrs. Tremayne, of Carlew, who has left the Conservative party and joined the W.S.F.U. Gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. and Miss Howell and Mrs. Thorne, 3s.

GLoucestershire.

Organiser—Miss Flatman, 16, Honyatt Road, Gloucester.
Report of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's meeting will be found elsewhere.
Sun., Feb. 11.—Stroud Ethical Society, Miss Flatman, 7 p.m.

ILFRACOMBE AND BARNSTAPLE.

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—Mrs. du Bauty Newby, St. Mary's, Broad Park Avenue, Ilfracombe.
Hon. Lit. Secretary—Miss Ball, Nursing Home, Larkstone, Ilfracombe.
Received from Bristol: £7 as share of the Bag and Basket Stall. Gratefully acknowledged: Miss Eldridge, 2s.; Miss C. Hesilton, 1s. 9d.

ROAD, SOMERSET.

Hon. Sec.—Miss N. Szyepanska, Telford.
Three very successful meetings have been held at Road, Farleigh Hungerford, and Beckington, at each of which Mrs. Dove-Willcox gave a most interesting speech, and the play "How the Vote was Won" was acted by local members and sympathisers. The programme also included a recitation by Miss Gordon and songs at Farleigh. Many thanks to all helpers, ticket-sellers, and especially those who acted in the play. £2 has been received from Mrs. Dove-Willcox, the share of the local branch from the profits of the West of England Stall at the Christmas Fair. Gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. Dove-Willcox, returned fare, 4s.

Wales.

NEWPORT.

Office—11, Stow Hill, Newport, Mon.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Humphrey Mackworth.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Temperance Hall, At Home, Mrs. Montague, 3.30 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 15.—Barry, Mrs. Montague.

PONTYPOOL AND GRIFFITHSTOWN.

Hon. Secs.—Mrs. Arthur Edmonds, Sunny Bank, Pontnewynydd; Miss C. Butler, Panteg House, Griffithstown.
A members' meeting was held in St. Hilda's schoolroom, Griffithstown, on February 5, at which plans were made for meetings in different centres in North Monmouthshire. Members are looking forward to Miss Kenney's visit at the end of February. Miss Kenney will address meetings in Pontypool and Abergavenny. Will all members who were not at the meeting on Monday, and who can help in working these meetings up, please communicate with Miss Barrett, 93, Ninian Road, Cardiff?

Eastern Counties.

CHELMSFORD.

Organiser—Miss Grace Roe.
Hon. Sec.—Miss Bartet, Oak Cottage, Park Road.
A campaign has been opened in this district, and members and friends who have not already put themselves in touch with Miss Bartet will greatly help on the work by doing so as quickly as possible. A ticket meeting is being arranged in the Shire Hall on March 6. Full particulars will be given later. Help with canvassing, paper-selling, and bill-distributing, also the offer of drawing-rooms for meetings, will be most welcome. The organiser makes a special appeal for the campaign funds, and asks everyone to send a contribution, however small.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.

Shop—47, Rosemary Road.
Hon. Sec.—Miss Lilley, Holland House.
It is hoped that all members who can will attend next Tuesday's social (see below) and bring their friends; it will be welcome.
Fri., Feb. 9.—Winter Gardens. The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield and Miss Evelyn Sharp, 8 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 13.—47, Rosemary Road. Miss L. Downs and Miss B. Lilley, 8 p.m.

IPSWICH AND DISTRICT.

Shop—19, Silent Lane, Ipswich. Organiser—Miss Grace Roe, 15, Silent Lane, Ipswich. Shop Sec.—Miss King.
The organiser will be glad to hear from members and friends in Ipswich or the country willing to arrange at homes or give drawing-room meetings, as it is hoped that Mrs. Pertwee will visit this district shortly. Felixstowe plans will be given next week. Many thanks to Mrs. Pollitt for having the members' meeting at her house.
Fri., Feb. 9.—Ipswich, St. Mary Elm's Parish Room. Hostesses: Mrs. Arthur Turner, Miss Ridley. Speaker: Miss Douglas Smith, 3 p.m. Ipswich, St. Michael's Hall, Miss Douglas Smith, 6.15 p.m.

NORWICH AND DISTRICT.

Organiser—Miss Margaret West, 6, Essex Street.
Members are asked to make a point of attending Saturday's meeting, and to bring as many friends as possible. Will those who have decided to volunteer for militant action please send in their names at once?
Sat., Feb. 10.—Norwich, Thatched Assembly Rooms, Miss Evelyn Sharp, 8 p.m. Yarmouth Liberal Club, Debate, 8 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 15.—Gt. Yarmouth, Fritton, drawing-room meeting, Mrs. Brailsford, Hostess: Mrs. Russell Usher, 3 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 16.—Yarmouth, drawing-room meeting, Mrs. Brailsford, Hostess: Mrs. Applewhite, 3 p.m.

North-Eastern Counties.

BRAADFORD.

Office—68, Manningham Lane. Phone 4033.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Beldon, 9, Walmer Villas.
Hon. Treas.—Mrs. Hardy Behrens.
Bradford has had a very busy week, beginning with a large gathering on Monday, when it was arranged to form a Speakers' Class, to meet every Monday from 6.30 to 8.30. Miss Oswald kindly consenting to organise this. Miss Roberts is also getting up an entertainment on Thursday next, and will be glad of promises of refreshments. On Tuesday Dr. Helena Jones addressed the young Liberals at the Bradford Liberal Club. VOTES FOR WOMEN had a good sale and several new members have been gained. Mrs. Philipp kindly entertained the members on Wednesday. About fifty were present and it was a very happy gathering. Mrs. Verity, Miss Cuss, Mrs. Pomeroy, Miss Beldon and Mr. Eric Beldon kindly helped by music and recitations. Thanks to Mrs. Philipp for her hospitality.
Mon., Feb. 12.—Shop, tea, 4 to 5.30. Speakers' class, 5.30 to 6.30.
Thurs., Feb. 15.—Entertainment, 7.30 p.m.

HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD.

Organiser—Miss Annie Williams, 1, Fitzwilliam St. West, Huddersfield. Hon. Sec.—Miss Lettice Floyd.
This organiser spoke at Elland Socialist Institute on Tuesday, January 31. Halifax members must make a note of the social evening and sale of work the last week in March. Further particulars will be announced later. Will members do their best to get those who are almost converted to take the final step and join the Union? The organiser will be grateful to have names and addresses of people sent her on whom she could call and to whom she could send notices of meetings. Don't forget that names are wanted for the next protest.
Sun., Feb. 11.—Halifax, Trades Club, I.L.P., Miss Annie Williams, 7 p.m.

HULL.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Trill, 105, Coltman Street.
Mrs. Drummond and Miss Williams addressed an interested audience in the Royal Institution on Friday last. Miss Harrison presided. Thanks to all members and friends who assisted in sale of tickets and in advertising. VOTES FOR WOMEN sold well and new members gained. An enjoyable social meeting was held the following evening in the Oddfellows Hall, with the assistance of Mrs. Drummond plans were made for

further meetings. Thanks to all those who so kindly provided refreshments. Will members kindly send all subscriptions due to Miss Odell, 277, Spring Bank, West?

LEEDS AND DISTRICT.

Office—3, Cockbridge Street.
Organiser—Miss Mary Phillips.
Mrs. Dodgson reports three new members and four new subscribers to VOTES FOR WOMEN this week. Members are urged to get new readers for the paper, and always to report to the organiser the name and address of the new subscriber. The serious matter before all now is the forthcoming deputation. Will every member try her very hardest to set everything aside and come forward at this time to make the number from Leeds as large as possible?
Fri., Feb. 9th.—Leeds, 3, Cockbridge Street. At Home. Miss G. Brackenbury. Hostess: Mrs. Dodgson, 3.30 and 7.30 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 13th.—Leeds, 3, Cockbridge Street. Speakers' Class, 7.30 p.m.

NEWCASTLE AND DISTRICT.

Office—77, Blackett Street. Tel. No. 4391 Central.
Organiser—Miss Laura Ainsworth.
Will all stewards be in their places to-night by 7 o'clock? To-day must be spent in final efforts to ensure a real success for the meeting. To-morrow a poster parade will take place in North Shields at 11 o'clock; volunteers are still wanted. Stewards must be in the Albion Assembly Rooms, North Shields, at 7 p.m. It is hoped that all members will endeavour to attend the members' meeting to meet Mrs. Pankhurst on Saturday afternoon. Will volunteers please offer their drawing-rooms for meetings, enroll new members, sell the paper and help in every possible way they can? Contributions to cover the campaign expenses are needed and should be sent to the organiser at above address.
Fri., Feb. 9.—Newcastle, Barras Bridge Assembly Rooms, Mrs. Pankhurst. Hostess: Mrs. Taylor; Sunderland, Victoria Hall, Mrs. Pankhurst, 8 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 10.—Newcastle, Old Assembly Rooms; Members to meet Mrs. Pankhurst, 3 p.m.; North Shields, Albion Assembly Rooms, Mrs. Pankhurst, 8 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 12.—Hebburn Colliery, Miss Laura Ainsworth, 3 p.m.; Jarrow, Club Room, Mechanics' Institute, Miss Laura Ainsworth, 7.30 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Newcastle, 77, Blackett Street, Members' Meeting, 7.30 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 15.—Sunderland, Co-operative Rooms, Green Street, Miss Laura Ainsworth and others, 8 p.m.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT.

Office—26-28, Chapel Walk, Sheffield.
Hon. Sec.—Miss Coxhill.
Will members volunteer their drawing-rooms for meetings? Who will come forward and address open-air meetings and help to increase the circulation of VOTES FOR WOMEN? Owing to the generosity of a sympathiser the poster will be shown in High Street weekly.
YORK.
Office—Colby Chambers, Telephone, 692, Coppergate.
Organiser—Miss Key-Jones.
The sub-committee are to be congratulated on the very successful visit drive on Tuesday last. Another is being arranged for February 13, tickets can be had at the office. Mrs. Tindle, hon. sec. for young people's party, will be glad to receive promises of cakes, etc., at once. Those joining the speakers' class should send in their names immediately.
Fri., Feb. 9.—Office, Dr. Helena Jones, Miss Key-Jones. Chair: Mrs. Coultate, 8 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 13.—Office, Whist Drive, 7.30 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Office, Speakers' Class, 8 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 16.—Office, Young People's Party, 4-7 p.m., 7-11 p.m.

North-Western Counties.

BOLTON, BURY, AND DISTRICT.
Hon. Sec. (pro tem.)—Mrs. Margaret E. Farrington, 118, Dorset Street, Haigh, Bolton.
Gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. F.W. Cooke, 21s. 6d. (proceeds of sale of work); Mr. J. Darbyshire, 2s. 6d.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT.

Office—11, Renshaw Street. Tel. 3761 Royal.
Organiser—Miss Davies.
Mrs. Pankhurst's visit is over, but its effect will remain and grow. The Wrexham meeting was held in the face of much misunderstanding and quiet antagonism, but no one could doubt its success who saw the crowd of women waiting in the bitter cold after it was over, to thank Mrs. Pankhurst and to try to shake her hand. Many thanks to the two Miss Greenways and to Mrs. Law for the way in which they worked in making the meeting known, and carrying out most of the necessary arrangements. The chairman (who made a most excellent opening speech) was Mr. F. Martin, who travelled from Liverpool to show his sympathy with the militant women. The Chester meeting was a real success, owing to the splendid help and sympathy given by members of the W.F.L. and to the generous and practical support of the chairman, Mr. H. F. Brown. The Liverpool demonstration in the Philharmonic Hall was a fine one, and was presided over by Mr. John Ziegler, who is a real friend to the woman's movement. The organiser would like to say she would not have dared to attempt this meeting if she had not been able to rely first and foremost on Miss C. Stephenson, and then on a body of members who were willing to put in days of real hard labour. Mrs. Abraham, Mrs. Morrissey, Mrs. Wallis, Mrs. Heathcote, Mrs. Caldwell, Mrs. Roberts, Miss Procter, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Statham, and last but certainly not least, Miss Martin, the "Vote" Secretary. It is impossible to thank the members who, either as stewards, ticket-sellers, or actors in the pageant, helped to make the whole affair a success. Mrs. Crinson and Miss Palethorpe arranged an afternoon reception on Thursday in Miss Palethorpe's studio, and invited friends who were not members to meet and talk quietly with Mrs. Pankhurst. Several who were there offered to go on the next deputation, if it should be necessary. No doubt many others will join them.

MANCHESTER.

Office—33, King Street, W.
Hon. Sec.—Miss L. Williamson.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Milton Hall, Deansgate, Social Evening, 7.30 p.m.

PRESTON, ST. ANNE'S-ON-THE-SEA AND DISTRICT.

Organisers—Mrs. Rigby, 24, Winsley Square, Preston; Miss Johnson, the Hydro, Lytham.
Members are urged to attend Wednesday's meeting, when final arrangements will be made for local meetings in connection with Mrs. Atkinson's visit. Any who will give informal afternoon at homes to their own personal friends should write at once to Mrs. Rigby. This help is of special importance.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Preston, 17, Cannon Street, Members' Meeting, 8 p.m.

Scotland.

ABERDEEN.
Organiser—Miss Lilias Mitchell. Shop—7, Bon Accord Street. Hon. Sec.—Miss Emily Russell.
In spite of the weather a good audience gathered in the Music Hall Round Room to hear Mrs. Brackenbury. Councillor Chalmers presided. Members are asked to give all their time to working up Mrs. Pankhurst's meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Hall on February 22. Volunteers are wanted for bill distributing, canvassing, chalking and poster-pasting. Miss Smith is doing excellent propaganda work in Peterhead and is gaining many new members. She is now working a public meeting for the Grammar School on Tuesday (see below). Through the kindness of a member a shop has been secured in the Gallowgate for the Jubilee Sale on February 17.
Mon., Feb. 12.—Peterhead, Rescue Hall, Miss Isabel Seymour. Chair: Mr. Napier, 8 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 13.—Aberdeen, Grammar School, Miss Isabel Seymour. Chair: Dr. Smart, 8 a.m.

You think you eat mustard with Ham and Pork because you like it with them. As a matter of fact they are almost indigestible without it, and nature has suggested its use. If you find anything else indigestible try freshly-made mustard with it.



That mustard has splendid digestive properties is amply proven by its universal use with indigestible foods. Many other foods than pork and beef are indigestible to persons with "poor digestions." The "mustard habit" is recommended to such. The habit of regularly using

Colman's Mustard

DUNDEE AND EAST FIFE.

Office—61, Nethergate. Organiser—Miss Fraser Smith, M.A. Hon. Sec.—Miss McFarlane.
In pursuance of the East Fife campaign, a meeting was held in Leuchars Temperance Hall, on January 30, with Mrs. Renny as speaker; Miss Georgina Brackenbury addressed a meeting in Tayport on January 31, having previously spoken at a most successful at home in the afternoon. The audience consisted mainly of strangers, who were deeply impressed by Miss Brackenbury's rousing address. Members were made and literature sold well. The dainty tea was provided by Mrs. Fraser Smith and Mrs. Johnston, Redcroft, to whom thanks are also due for her gift of flowers. Members must now concentrate their efforts on making the Cake and Candy Sale, on March 2, a brilliant success. "The Twelve Pound-Loaf," which will be the chief attraction in the programme, is now well in hand, thanks to the energetic management of Mrs. Renny and Miss Grant.
Sat., Feb. 10.—Dundee, Stall at Flower Market, 2 to 10 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 14.—Dundee, 61, Nethergate, Miss Isabel Seymour, 8 p.m.

EDINBURGH AND EAST OF SCOTLAND.

Office—4, Melville Place, Queensferry Street. Organiser—Miss Lucy Burns. Shop Sec.—Miss E. Hudson. Tel. 6182 Central.
A large and successful drawing-room meeting was given in the Balmoral Hotel on Tuesday, January 23, by a number of members acting as hostesses. Many members were made at the close of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's magnificent speech. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence spoke at Kirkcaldy in the evening and at Dumfries on Friday evening, and got an enthusiastic reception at both places. Mrs. Morley Fletcher arranged a delightful drawing-room meeting on Tuesday afternoon, at which Miss Joachim was the speaker. Mrs. Duncan gathered a large audience at 62, Craigmillar Park, on Friday, for Miss Joachim; and on Monday Miss Joachim and Miss Mayo were the speakers at an evening drawing-room meeting arranged by Mrs. Grieve, of Collesdene. New ground was broken in Trinity on January 29, at a meeting held in the Wardie U.F. Church Hall. Miss Brackenbury was the speaker. The meeting was arranged by Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Dobbie, who acted as hostesses. Last Thursday's weekly meeting was held in the Oak Hall, Edinburgh Café, when Miss Brackenbury was again the speaker. A large number of strangers were present. Will members send in home-made marmalade and toffee for sale in the shop?
GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND.
Shop and Office—362, Sauchiehall Street. Tel. 618, Charing Cross. Hon. Org. Sec.—Miss F. McPherson. Organiser—Miss Parker.
On Sunday night (January 25) in response to an invitation from Coaldyke Irish League Miss Parker addressed a meeting there. There was good attendance of members at the Adult Suffrage Demonstration on Wednesday night. The speakers were Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Princess Beatrice, and Miss Alison Neilson. Nearly two hundred copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN were sold. Miss Georgina Brackenbury gave two most interesting addresses at the Charing Cross Hall at home on Friday and at the office Social on Saturday. She also spoke at a meeting in Cambuslang on Friday evening which Mrs. Wilson very kindly arranged. Mrs. Craig's meeting in Dumbarton was most successful. Mrs. White wishes to announce that owing to the rush of work at present it has been considered advisable to postpone the proposed dance until the beginning of next season. St. Andrew's Hall has been booked for Mrs. Pankhurst's meeting on February 20. Preparations for this meeting are now in full swing. Please call at the office and see what you can do to help.
Fri., Feb. 9th.—Glasgow, Charing Cross Hall, Miss Grant, 3.30 p.m.; Kirkcaldy, Memorial Hall (by Lanark), Miss B. McLean, M.A. Chair: Mrs. Stein, 7.30 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 14th.—Bearsden, Esser Hall, Mrs. John, 7.30 p.m.

SURBITON AND DISTRICT.

Organiser—Miss Helen Jollie, 6, Cranbourne Court, Albert Bridge Road, Battersea Park, S.W.
A very successful meeting was held at the Assembly Rooms on February 1, when splendid speeches were made by the Hon. Evelyn Haverfield, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mr. Atherton Jones, K.C., M.P., and by Miss Mrs. Moore, who further delighted her audience by reciting Mr. Sydney Low's "The Species of the Female." The audience was a representative one, and the campaign in this district will be carried on by Miss Jollie, who would be grateful for names and addresses and introductions to people in Surbiton, Kingston, Hampton, Claygate, Esher, and Molesey. Offers of drawing-rooms for meetings would be most welcome, and help of any kind gratefully accepted.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOC. FOR W.S.

President—Mrs. Goll Chapman.
Office—3, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge (opposite Tube Station).
The annual meeting was held at 66, Onslow Gardens, by kind permission of Mrs. Hyton Dale. The report,

which was read by Miss Jean Forsyth, hon. sec., brought forth congratulations on the amount of work done by the New Constitutional Society during the year 1911. Miss Hyton Dale was in the chair. Mr. Joseph Clayton, Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, and Mrs. Cecil Chapman spoke. The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield speaks at the At Home at 3.30-6 p.m. on February 13. Hostess: Mrs. O'Mara. Will friends in Folkestone keep February 21 free for the Town Hall meeting? Chair: The Countess Brassey. Speakers: Lady Meyer and the Rev. Hugh Chapman (Royal Chapel of Savoy).

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR W.S.

Hon. General Sec.—Rev. C. and Mrs. Fleming Williams, 2, Holmby View, Clapton, N.
The Church League and Free Church League are holding a united meeting at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Breeds Place, Hastings, on Tuesday, February 13, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Rev. O. Hinscliff and Rev. C. Fleming Williams. Subject: "The Religious Aspect of the Suffrage Movement."

THE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR W.S.

Office—11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.
A branch has been opened in Shanklin, Isle of Wight, where the hon. sec., Miss Marsh, is fighting a strenuous battle against prejudice and indifference. A service will be held at St. George's, Bloomsbury, on Friday, February 16, at 3.30; preacher, The Rev. O. B. Woolley, of the College, Hartlebury Castle. A meeting will also be held at the International Suffrage Shop on Wednesday, February 28, at 3, when the speaker will be one of the Ladies' National Association for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice.

CATHOLIC W.S. SOCIETY.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Beatrice Gadsby, B.A. Hon. Treas.—Miss Monica Whately.
Office—81, Blandford Street, Baker Street, W.
Please note that the members' reception will take place on Saturday, February 17, at 20, Hanover Square, W., 3.30 to 6.30. Miss Abadam has kindly consented to speak, and Mrs. Morgan Dockrell and Miss Fitzsimons will act as hostesses. Gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. Witley, 2s.; Miss Witley, 2s.; Miss Monica Whately, 2s.; Miss Burman, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. H. More Nisbett, 2s. 6d.

NEWS FROM IRELAND.

From all parts of Ireland comes the news of a growing interest in the question of votes for women. In the south, the Munster Women's Franchise League (Hon. Sec., Miss Day, Myrtle Hill House, Cork), have had splendid meetings in Birr, Skibbereen and Mithelstown, the halls being packed by audiences that had never heard a Suffrage speech before. The Skibbereen meeting, worked up by Miss Edith Somerville, surpassed all expectations, women walking miles to hear the new doctrine of liberty. Very many thanks to the Rev. Canon Moore and Miss K. Fairholme who helped at Mithelstown and to Mrs. Cohen, who has undertaken to be Hon. Sec. of the new branch in Birr. It is hoped to work up Malow and Fermoy next.
At a dinner of the Belfast Women's Suffrage Society, Mrs. Bennett presiding, the Committee and members expressed their deep gratitude to Miss Pankhurst for visiting Belfast at this time to help them. They were of opinion that her visit would be of much value. The Committee also desire to thank all those who by selling tickets or helping in any way made the meeting in Belfast Opera House the great success it was.

Now that the darkest of the winter days are over, housewives are thinking of spring-cleaning, which always necessitates shopping. And we therefore remind our readers of the sale at William Owen's, Westbourne Grove, W. The sale is going on now, and presents a splendid opportunity for securing bargains, especially in the way of lace and net curtains, which may be had in varied patterns at absurdly cheap prices. White tablecloths, serviettes, towels, and everything else in the way of household linen are being sold at specially low prices during this sale. Then we must not forget the blouse department, where handsome black nixon and lace evening blouses are being sold at 10s., and some Crêpe de Chine and velvet sample blouses are being offered in lots at 5s., 10s., and 15s. each. Exceptional bargains are being offered in every department, and readers would be well advised to visit the sale at once.

QUALITY AND VALUE.

A perusal of the illustrated catalogue of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company—which can be obtained post free from 112, Regent Street, London, W.—convince one that purchasers of Gem Jewellery and Gold and Silver Plate may there obtain the utmost value for their money. [Advt.]

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Single insertion, 24 words or less, 2s.; 1d. per word for every additional word. (Four insertions for the price of three.)

All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday afternoon. Address, the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

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BARON'S COURT, BOSCOMBE, BOURNE-MOUTH.—High-class Boarding Establishment. Moderate.

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BRIGHTON.—TITCHFIELD HOUSE, 21, Upper Rock Gardens, off Marine Parade. Good table. Congenial society. Terms 25s. to 30s.—Mrs. Gray, Member W.S.P.U.

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FOLKESTONE.—Board-residence, quiet, home-like. Special care for delicate or young people. Moderate. Recommended by W.S.P.U. workers.—Ryeview, Castle Hill Avenue.

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